

PRESSURE ON ARGENTINE NEWSPAPER

A LOSING FIGHT

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BUENOS AIRES, JAN 12

The prospects are fading that the Roman Catholic daily newspaper *El Pueblo*, organ of the Argentine Episcopacy, which suspended publication 12 days ago, will reappear under its present owners.

The General Confederation of Labour has announced that, on General Perón's instructions, arrears of pay bonuses and dismissal of indemnities owed by *El Pueblo* and its publishers, Editorial Difusion, to the staff have been paid by the Industrial Bank of Argentina. The announcement added that *El Pueblo* and Editorial Difusion were being prosecuted for misappropriation of mortgage property. Señor Luis Luchia Puig, chairman, Señor Jorge Dussol, secretary, and Señor Modesto Vals, manager of Editorial Difusion, were arrested and later released conditionally.

El Pueblo was one of the few remaining Argentine newspapers not owned by interests responding to the Government. Its difficulties began soon after General Perón's denunciation of three Argentine Bishops on November 10.

The action taken against *El Pueblo* follows the same technique as those four years ago against the then independent newspaper, *La Prensa*, which was first closed, then expropriated, and finally delivered to the General Confederation of Labour. It will be recalled that *La Prensa*'s difficulties began with an alleged conflict with newsvendors.

PRIESTS ARRESTED IN ARGENTINA

SHARE IN PROCESSION

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BUENOS AIRES, MAY 18

Incidents arising from General Perón's conflict with the Roman Catholic Church in Argentina are growing in number and size.

In the province of Cordoba, noted for its strong Roman Catholic tradition, 10 more people—four priests and six laymen—have been arrested for taking part in a religious procession at the end of a Novena of Our Lady of Fatima. Three of the priests are missionaries and one a parish priest. The three missionaries were each sentenced to 10 days' detention with the option of a fine, and were released after paying the fine. The six laymen have been sentenced to 15 days' detention, while the fate of the parish priest has not been announced.

ARGENTINE VOTE ON CHURCH

A DISESTABLISHMENT PLEBISCITE

From Our Own Correspondent

BUENOS AIRES, MAY 20

The Argentine Senate to-day approved unanimously the Bill to reform the constitution and disestablish the Roman Catholic Church, as well as a Bill making the Church and all its properties subject to ordinary taxation. Both Bills will become law after receiving President Perón's signature.

The disestablishment Bill, which provides for a referendum on the issue through a popularly elected convention, was approved yesterday by the Chamber of Deputies by 121 votes to 12. The elections for the convention must be held within 180 days of promulgation of the Bill.

Twelve Radical deputies opposed the Bill on the ground that political conditions justifying reform of the constitution did not exist. The Radicals could not make a stout defence of the Church, because their party has always had an anti-clerical trend, although many Radicals are Roman Catholics. Lay teaching in the State schools has been one of the main planks in the Radical platform, and many Radicals favour disestablishment of the Church.

In the forthcoming elections, which no foreseeable contingency can now prevent, the Radicals will be in the paradoxical position of defending the Church in contradiction to their own principles and record, because they must oppose General Perón or abandon the fight. For them the issue is Radicals versus Perón, whereas for Argentina, the issue is the Church versus Perón.

DECIDING FACTOR

The elections will cut clean across previous Argentine political divisions, and will be most interesting and unpredictable. In the dark room where votes are cast secretly, religion will be the deciding factor. Many women especially, who in Argentina are more devout than men, will say they fear divine punishment if they vote against the Church. Catholic Peronistas may vote for their religion against the party; the Conservatives will vote for the Church without qualms; and the Socialists, who are strong only in Buenos Aires and who hate the Church and Perón equally, will probably vote for neither. The Conservatives and Socialists have an appreciable political following, although they are not represented in either the Senate or the Chamber of Deputies. The issue is made clearer because disestablishment of the Church is linked with a whole series of anti-clerical measures.

If the Church wins this referendum, General Perón, who is an astute politician, can accept the result without loss of face, although his prestige may be diminished. He has declared that he is leaving the decision to the people's will, and has not made it a personal issue.

Fifteen more residents of the village of Luque in Cordoba province have been sentenced to 15 days' detention for participating in a Roman Catholic procession without permission. They are mostly professional and business men.

CHURCH SCHOOL CLOSED IN ARGENTINA

DIVORCE LAW INCIDENT

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BUENOS AIRES, MARCH 11

A Roman Catholic school for girls, named the College of the Assumption, maintained here by French nuns, has been closed permanently by the Ministry of Education on the charge of having defied the recent Argentine divorce law.

The school, which had 470 pupils, including three Protestant children and three belonging to the Orthodox Church, was attacked last month in a Government-inspired Press campaign. The cause of the campaign was that the mother superior had requested the removal of four children from the school on the ground that their divorced mother had remarried abroad while the remarriage of divorced persons was still illegal in Argentina. The school was closed on March 1, but the closure was not announced publicly.

ANTI-CHURCH ACTS IN ARGENTINA

VATICAN CRITICISM FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

ROME, MARCH 22

Declaring that "the struggle against the Church in Argentina is increasing," the *Osservatore Romano*, the organ of the Vatican, says to-day that, among other anti-religious provisions introduced by the Argentine Government, the recent abolition of several important religious festivals has been given the "specious justification that it is to augment production."

This the *Osservatore Romano* describes as "a justification already classic in many Communist-dominated countries. It is not necessary to add that the action is just another episode in the ever more bitter struggle which the Argentine régime is waging against the Catholic Church. It would be interesting to know how many, and which, ministers counter-signed the presidential decree."

WORSENING SITUATION

After recalling earlier persecution measures of the Perón Government, the *Osservatore Romano* says that not only has the situation not altered but that it is getting worse, "even though in recent months some have written or caused to be written that the Argentine Government did not seem opposed to seeking a way to an understanding." Observing that the facts "speak for themselves with a crude eloquence," the newspaper states that "it is not for us to say whether the non-Catholic community, which includes the Mormons, can derive any advantage from the role which is being openly assigned to them."

The newspaper draws attention to "the untiring and insulting Press campaign which asserts that religion must be confined to Churches, while outside them only 'judicial truth' can reign," and it says that it is in possession of a "significant circular of the Peronist Women's Party which practically organizes espionage and provocation within the Church." The *Osservatore Romano* concludes that this not only confirms the spirit of the anti-Catholic struggle of the Argentine régime but illustrates its methods.

DEPUTY EXPELLED FROM ARGENTINE CHAMBER

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BUENOS AIRES, MAY 13

Señor Roberto Carena, the Peronista deputy for Cordoba in the Argentine Federal Congress who recently resigned his seat on religious grounds over the Peronista proposal to disestablish the Church, was expelled last night from the Chamber of Deputies.

The Archbishopsric of Cordoba has advised the faithful that Catholics may not support explicitly or implicitly Church disestablishment, divorce, or lay teaching.

Another important measure was taken against the Roman Catholic Church in Argentina yesterday when a Peronista Bill was presented in the Senate repealing all existing law and regulations which exempt religious institutions from taxation.

ARRESTS AFTER PROCESSION

RAID ON ARGENTINE CATHOLICS' HOMES

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BUENOS AIRES, MAY 8

The Argentine federal police swooped on all leading members of Catholic Action in Buenos Aires in the early hours of yesterday while they were still in bed, and arrested nearly all Catholic Action's central committee.

Those taken into custody include Señor Luis P. Arrighi, the Catholic Action president, an engineer by profession, Señor Ramiro de Lafuente, the secretary, and 10 other persons, including one woman. They were taken to the political department at federal police headquarters.

The police raid was a sequel to a Roman Catholic religious procession estimated at some 20,000 people, who marched through the centre of Buenos Aires a few hours earlier on Friday night, singing hymns and chanting Catholic slogans, thereby defying a recent law banning open-air demonstrations.

The occasion for the demonstration, which coincided with the Peronista Party's presentation to Congress of two anti-Catholic Bills, was a Mass celebrated in the cathedral in connexion with the forthcoming international Eucharistic Congress in Rio de Janeiro. The cathedral was full and crowds gathered in the Plaza de Mayo outside.

OFFICER'S PROTEST

At the end of the Mass a procession was formed interrupting traffic, and the first person arrested was Brigadier Carlos García Cuevas, a retired Argentine Air Force officer, who had protested to the police for directing traffic into the procession. The crowd, composed chiefly of persons of the upper and middle class, was well behaved but it was unmistakably an illegal anti-Government demonstration. Many priests and nuns were seen in the procession and among the slogans heard was "We, too, are the people," which referred to the claim of the General Confederation of Labour to represent exclusively the Argentine people's will. Other slogans were "Christ and only Christ," a parody on the Peronista slogan "Perón and only Perón," and "Argentina is Catholic."

A minor disturbance occurred and mounted police struck several people with the flats of their sabres. Many received bruises but nobody was seriously hurt.

POLICE VERSION

A police version said that the Catholic Action had organized a public meeting without permission and had incited people to violence. The tyres of motor omnibuses, it was said, were punctured to prevent their interfering with the procession and the windows of vehicles were broken. The crowd refused to obey the police and a senior police officer, Commissioner Francisco Trotta, second in command of foot police, and a police constable were injured and taken to hospital.

Religious disturbances also occurred on Friday night in the city of Córdoba after Masses at the Church of the Capuchins and the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and several members of Catholic Action were arrested.

It is the first time within memory that public demonstrations have been held in Argentina in defiance of law and the police. The Government evidently has not hitherto dared to use violence because of the deplorable impression which would be caused if heavy casualties occurred among religious groups of which at least a half are women and children. Indeed, women Catholics have been foremost in defying the police.

A message from Mgr. Copello, Cardinal Primate of Argentina and Archbishop of Buenos Aires, announcing the arrests, was read in all churches of the federal capital to-day. The message added that the Archbishop went personally yesterday evening to the political department of the federal police and after waiting one hour was not allowed to speak to any of the prisoners. He asked the faithful to go to the police department and try to visit the arrested persons and show them that they were supported.

CATHOLICS DEFY GEN. PERÓN

PAPAL FLAG HOISTED ON SENATE

100,000 IGNORE BAN

From Our Own Correspondent

BUENOS AIRES, June 12

Nearly 100,000 Argentine Roman Catholics defied the Government's ban on the open-air celebration of the Feast of Corpus Christi yesterday and partly filled the Plaza de Mayo in front of the cathedral. The Corpus Christi procession, however, was held inside the cathedral in accordance with the Government's stipulation.

Later a large section of the congregation marched up the Avenida de Mayo to the Congress building where they placed one papal flag on the flagstaff of the Senate and another on the flagstaff of the Chamber of Deputies. Official versions state that Argentine flags were hauled down and burnt but this is denied by eye witnesses who declare that the papal flags were placed alongside the Argentine flags.

The crowd broke the windows of the newspaper *La Prensa*, now the organ of the General Confederation of Labour. Formerly, when *La Prensa* was privately owned, Peronista crowds made a habit of smashing the office windows after their meetings.

Police were conspicuously absent during the ceremony in the Plaza de Mayo which gave the impression that the Government was adopting a conciliatory attitude.

TRANSPORT STOPPED

The Government did its best to prevent Roman Catholics from reaching the Plaza de Mayo and underground trains and trams and omnibuses stopped running. Periodically during the day the State radio announced that the ceremony had been cancelled. Priests from the pulpit had told the people to go to the Plaza de Mayo with their families and to pay no attention to anything they heard on the radio or read in the newspapers. As the Government had expressly prohibited "public acts," the event was the biggest collective defiance of authority known in modern Argentina.

Señor Borlenghi, Minister of the Interior, in a Press conference at midnight declared that Catholic demonstrators tried to violate the precincts of the Houses of Congress by forcing doors. They tore down two plaques in memory of the late Eva Perón. Later, he said, the Peruvian Ambassador's car was attacked and damaged and the chauffeur injured. A tar bomb was thrown against the Yugoslav Embassy.

The Minister added that the demonstrators in their long march through the city stoned the windows of the newspapers *Democracia el Laborista* and *La Epoca*, and shots were fired at the windows of *La Prensa*. Monuments to Argentina's national heroes, including Sarmiento, a famous Liberal, were tarred with the words "Death to Perón, long live Christ the King." Windows of many Government and Peronista buildings were smashed. The Minister said that "these acts of violence and vandalism" occurred because the demonstrators took advantage of the police's tolerance.

Last night's occurrences will inevitably accentuate the dangerous and bitter tension already caused by Argentina's religious conflict. Although the official version does not coincide entirely with eye witnesses' stories, broken windows and other proofs of disorder tell their story. Experience shows that it is inevitable in Argentina that when passions are high and big crowds assemble against the Government rioting occurs in the absence of police.

CROWD IN PRAYER

Until the crowd marched up the Avenida de Mayo it was purely a religious gathering. The scene in the Plaza de Mayo as the crowd knelt in prayer was what might be seen in any church on Sunday. It is evident that this religious conflict has aroused stronger feelings than anything known in the present generation of Argentines.

A session of the Chamber of Deputies has been called for to-morrow to consider "acts of vandalism perpetrated yesterday by clerical hordes allied with the oligarchy and the country's enemies" who replaced the Argentine flag with the flag of an "international State" (the Vatican).

BUENOS AIRES, June 12.—Anti-Church demonstrators shouting "Long live Perón, down with the Pope" stormed the cathedral here to-night. They threw stones and fired a few shots at a crowd of the faithful standing guard on the cathedral steps after the evening service. The crowd dispersed and the cathedral doors were shut.

After charging the front door of the cathedral, the mob turned on the adjoining building, the residence of Archbishop Copello, who is away. Finding the doors of this building closed too, the mob smashed the windows with stones. A car was set on fire in front of the archbishop's residence before the rioting broke up. The mob manhandled a few Catholics in the street.—Associated Press.

ACCUSATIONS IN BUENOS AIRES

ARRESTS AT PALACE OF ARCHBISHOP

From Our Own Correspondent

BUENOS AIRES, JUNE 13

Early to-day the Argentine federal police issued their own version of events last evening in front of the cathedral in the Plaza de Mayo here.

The police report said that members of Catholic Action assembled in front of the cathedral with the premeditated intention of provoking a disturbance. The police say they had information that Roman Catholics intended to damage or burn the cathedral and attribute it "to organizations of the people." Many members of Catholic Action later arrested were "found to be in possession of pistols and revolvers. A quantity of ammunition was found in a motor-car."

The police went on to say that a clash occurred between rival groups and shots were heard. At the same time a stationary motor-car was set on fire. The fire brigade arrived and extinguished the fire, and foot police succeeded in restoring order. Some 250 "clericals" sought refuge immediately in the Archbishop's palace adjoining the cathedral.

A federal judge intervened and ordered the arrest of persons who had taken refuge in the palace. In the tumult several persons were wounded by shots or suffered bruises. The police report added that a rumour was then spread that the cathedral had been burnt, and the police dispersed excited groups of clericals in various parts of central Buenos Aires.

"ONLY A CLASH"

The Argentine Government Press department issued the following laconic announcement last night: "Members of the clerical oligarchy are spreading rumours that the cathedral has been burnt. There was only a clash between two rival groups." The semi-official Press to-day published the names of 22 persons who received bullet wounds or other injuries. It also announced that the police, acting on the judge's order, searched the Archbishop's palace early to-day and 428 men, mostly under 25 years of age, were arrested. About 100 young women found in the palace were allowed to go home.

A decree was issued yesterday suspending all religious ceremonies outside churches throughout Argentina.

BUENOS AIRES, June 13.—Peronista demonstrators attacked the archbishop's palace to-day, breaking windows and clashing with Catholic demonstrators.

Father Antonio Aguirre, secretary to the Chancellor of the Buenos Aires archdiocese, said to-day: "If the burning of the Argentine flag on Saturday night after the Corpus Christi ceremony is attributed to Catholics, it is a solemn lie." In a talk with journalists he denied one by one the Government's charges of hooliganism against Catholics. The Catholic attitude throughout was one of defence, he said.

Speakers in both the Senate and the House of Deputies condemned alleged Catholic excesses and paid tribute to the Argentine flag. The General Confederation of Labour ordered a general strike from 3 p.m. to midnight to-morrow to permit workers to attend a monster concentration in front of the Congress building "to atone for the outrage."—Reuter.

DEPORTATION OF TWO BISHOPS

DEPARTURE BY AIR FROM ARGENTINA

From Our Own Correspondent

BUENOS AIRES, JUNE 15

Mgr. Tato and Mgr. Novoa, the two Roman Catholic bishops who were "dismissed" from their posts by the Argentine Government yesterday, left here to-day by air for Rome via Amsterdam.

The police are reported to be searching the houses of parish priests and the premises of Catholic Action all over Argentina. Two Argentine journalists, belonging to the Saporiti news agency, one of the few remaining independent agencies, were arrested on Saturday while reporting the Roman Catholic demonstrations; they are being held at the disposal of the federal judiciary. Of 434 Roman Catholics arrested in the episcopal palace on Sunday night, about 100 have been released.

A decree has been issued, through the Ministry of Education, dismissing all teachers of religion paid by the State.

The attack on the cathedral of Buenos Aires last Sunday by a mob has had an interesting sequel through the presence there of Dr. Tomas Casares, a member of the Argentine Supreme Court of Justice and himself a staunch Roman Catholic. Dr. Casares went to the cathedral to attend Mass. Indignant at the inaction of the police in allowing the cathedral to be attacked he telephoned the commander of the First Regiment of Infantry invoking his official position and requested the dispatch of troops.

GOVERNMENT MESSAGES

The Government has now sent through the Ministry of the Interior messages to Congress and to the Supreme Court of Justice denouncing Dr. Casares for "trying to prevent the police from exercising authority" and interfering with the action of a junior judge who arrived on the scene after the attack. The messages said that Dr. Casares had called on the army to carry out a strictly police task "which the federal police was fulfilling efficiently."

Your Correspondent witnessed the attack on the cathedral, but he did not see the police intervene until after the outbreak of shooting although a police patrol car equipped with wireless was stationed less than 100 yards from the cathedral throughout the attack.

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 15.—Mgr. Tato and Mgr. Novoa arrived here to-day in an airliner bound for Rome. They said they had been put on the airliner by Argentine police after being held in prison until 4.30 a.m. The police had told them that they would be deported and that they had a choice of going to Chile or Uruguay. Then, instead of being sent to a neighbouring South American State, they were put on an Argentine aircraft bound for Italy. They were permitted to take nothing but the clothes they were wearing.—*Reuter*.

ARMED REVOLT AGAINST GENERAL PERÓN

BOMBS DROPPED ON BUENOS AIRES: FIGHTING IN STREETS

A revolt broke out in Buenos Aires yesterday against the Perón régime. In a broadcast last night the President said the situation was under control.

Fighting occurred in the centre of the city, and civilians were killed in two air raids. In the first raid, Government House was hit twice.

The Vatican announced yesterday that those involved in the recent "crimes" against the Church in Argentina had been excommunicated.

BROADCAST BY PRESIDENT

"SITUATION UNDER CONTROL"

From Our Own Correspondent

NEW YORK, JUNE 16

A revolt against the Perón régime which flared up to-day in Buenos Aires was marked by two air raids—out just before noon and the other just after 3 p.m.—on the area of Government House, and by hand-to-hand fighting this morning in the Plaza del Mayo. Many casualties were caused by the bombing.

Later in the day troops took control of the central part of the city, and the indications were that the army had remained loyal to President Perón. Conflicting claims were made by the official wireless station and by a "radio from Argentina" station. The former asserted that the revolt had been quelled, the latter that "the tyrant is dead." It was reported from Montevideo (Uruguay) that all the Argentine wireless stations had to-night joined in a linked broadcast declaring that the rebellion had been put down.

NAVY ACCUSED

To-night President Perón, broadcasting to the capital, said the revolution had failed and the situation was under control. The President said his relatives had dominated "the revolution, and those who were plotting had been detained. He indicated that a few points of resistance remained to be cleaned up, and called on the people to be calm. The President accused the Navy of responsibility for the numerous dead and wounded involved in the air raids on his capital, and added: "We will never forget the valour of our enemies."

Cable communications between Buenos Aires and foreign centres were suspended this morning when the revolt broke out. International telephone circuits remained open for several hours, and news of the progress of the fighting continued to be received here by telephone until 4 p.m., when the lines were cut, reportedly "on orders from above" in Buenos Aires.

When communications were cut, confusion reigned in Buenos Aires, but the official wireless persisted in asserting that everything is normal, throughout the Republic.

JET FIGHTERS

The first air raid on the Casa Rosada (an Government House is known) was carried out by a force of between four and six aircraft, identified as belonging to the naval aviation forces. The second raid was carried out by light bombers, propeller-driven Marlin Marauder and Gloster Meteor jet fighters carrying a single bomb each. At least a dozen bombs were dropped, causing panic among the dense crowds which had gathered at the Plaza del Mayo.

At least 40 omnibuses, carrying trade union supporters of President Perón, had been reported as converging on the area when the second raid took place, and the streets were filled with bands of workers shouting "Perón! Perón!" At least two aircraft were shot down by anti-aircraft fire from Government House, from which dense clouds of smoke rose. Because the second air raid included jet aircraft, it was thought that probably a section of the Argentine Air Force had joined the naval aviation force in the attack, but there was no means of verifying this.

The official wireless station announced, in President Perón's name, that all but one unit of Argentine naval aircraft had been defeated. This was added that the aircraft that bombed Government House came from the naval base at Punta Indio.

The revolt followed hand on the heels of the Vatican's action in excommunicating Argentine Government leaders, but it is by no means clear yet how far public sympathy in Argentina is with the Church in this action. Certainly the trade unions are wholeheartedly committed to the support of President Perón.

AIRCRAFT IN URUGUAY

From Montevideo (Uruguay) it was reported this evening that 30 Argentine rebel aircraft had arrived at Carrasco near by, and "more are coming in every minute." Seven other aircraft were said to have sought refuge at Bosco Lanza military air base; another three aircraft carrying Navy and Air Force officers landed at Colonia, also in Uruguay.

Montevideo radio claimed in a broadcast at 02.00 B.S.T. to-day that churches and ecclesiastical premises in Buenos Aires were in flames.

MONTHS OF RISING TENSION

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

The outbreak of violence in Buenos Aires yesterday came as the climax to several months of mounting tension between Church and State—still surprising to many observers as it follows a long period of effective cooperation.

The *face-à-face* in General Perón's policy was perhaps marked by his broadcast of

November 19, when he made an open attack on the Church. Accusing individual priests of interfering in politics, he warned them to stay out and specifically named three bishops as "offenders." A few days later Roman Catholics and police were in a clash in Colón, and the Government began a purge of Catholics from public posts in the province.

Since then the gradual deterioration of the situation has been indicated by a series of significant events, among which the following have been the most notable—

December 3. Ministry of Education's department of religious instruction abolished, January 12, 1955.—The Catholic daily newspaper *El Pueblo* suspended.

February 11. State subsidies withdrawn from 80 Catholic schools and hundreds of teacher-priests dismissed.

April 28.—Many Catholics arrested in connection with an alleged "terrorist plot." May 7.—Sixteen leaders of the Catholic Action Movement arrested and held for 11 days.

DISESTABLISHMENT BILL

On May 5 the conflict moved into a new, and apparently irreconcileable, phase when a group of Perónist deputies submitted a Bill to amend the constitution to disestablish the Church. Within 15 days it was passed. In the next three weeks events moved swiftly, as the summary indicates—

May 15.—Catholic demonstrations in many leading cities.

May 30.—News of the dismissal of seventeen Catholic professors from the University of La Plata.

June 5.—General Perón's friendly reference to the Russian people—regarded as a gesture of hostility to the Church.

June 11.—100,000 Catholics celebrate Corpus Christi at the cathedral. Afterwards crowds bore the Papal flag on a pole in Congress building's garden. Windows of *La Prensa* smashed.

June 12.—Anti-Church demonstrators marched on the Archdiocesan Palace and Cathedral. Police arrest many Catholics after shooting.

June 14.—Mig. Manuel Tato, assistant Bishop of Buenos Aires, and Mgr. Ramón Novoa, Canon of the Diocese, dismissed by Government decree and blamed for recent disturbances. Dr Casares a Cañuelas and leading judge of the Supreme Court, denounced to Congress by the Government for his part in the events which followed the attack on the cathedral.

June 15.—Mig. Tato and Mgr. Novoa expelled and sent by air to Rio de Janeiro, en route for Rome. Police occupy Archdiocesan Palace and Catholic Action headquarters.

EXCOMMUNICATE ORDER

VATICAN DECREE IN GENERAL TERMS

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

ROME, JUNE 16

By decree of the Consistorial Congregation, the Vatican to-day excommunicated all those involved in the recent "crimes" against the rights of the Roman Catholic Church in Argentina and in the use of violence against ecclesiastical personages.

Although it is usual in the excommunication of those responsible for acts against the Church, the names are not given. To-day's decree makes particular reference to the actions taken against Mgr. Tato, Auxiliary and Vicar-General of the archdiocese of Buenos Aires. "Not only" it declares, "did some persons dare set my hands on the persons of Mgr. Tato, but they impeded the exercise of his jurisdiction and expelled him from Argentine territory."

COMPARISON WITH CHINA

It is pointed out in Vatican circles that the expulsion of the two prelates from Argentina yesterday is in some respect a even graver offence than actions taken against the Church and its representatives in recent years by other Governments. The Roman Catholic clergy expelled from China, for example, were foreigners whereas Mgr. Tato and Mgr. Novoa are Argentine citizens whose right to be in their own country cannot be questioned. It is believed, moreover, that both Cardinal Mindszenty in Hungary and Cardinal Sutphin in Yugoslavia would not have been imprisoned had they been prepared to accept the alternative of leaving their respective countries for Rome.

The two expelled Argentine prelates reach Rome by air to-night.

"SINGULAR" ATTITUDE

The *Observatore Romano*, the organ of the Vatican, to-day criticizes the leading article in *The Times* of June 14. The attitude of *The Times* towards the persecution in Argentina, it says, "is, to say the least, singular." *The Times* does not disguise its antipathy towards the Argentine Catholics nor according a certain sympathy to the Perón régime, the newspaper says, and adds: "In Argentina it is not the case of a struggle between Church and State Action and the Peronist régime, but of an attack which, at a certain stage of its evolution, that régime—for motives which are still mysterious—has sought, to launch against the Catholic Church and its precepts."

"ARGENTINE FALKLANDS"

Buenos Aires, June 16.—The Falkland Islands are designated as a new province of Argentina in a Bill passed by the Argentine Senate last night. According to the proposal, the Falklands will be administered by a Governor appointed by the Argentine Government.

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SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

The outbreak of violence in Buenos Aires yesterday came as the climax to several months of mounting tension between Church and State—still surprising to many observers as it follows a long period of effective cooperation.

The *face-à-face* in General Perón's policy was perhaps marked by his broadcast of

November 19, when he made an open attack on the Church. Accusing individual priests of interfering in politics, he warned them to stay out and specifically named three bishops as "offenders." A few days later Roman Catholics and police were in a clash in Colón, and the Government began a purge of Catholics from public posts in the province.

Since then the gradual deterioration of the situation has been indicated by a series of significant events, among which the following have been the most notable—

December 3. Ministry of Education's department of religious instruction abolished, January 12, 1955.—The Catholic daily newspaper *El Pueblo* suspended.

February 11. State subsidies withdrawn from 80 Catholic schools and hundreds of teacher-priests dismissed.

April 28.—Many Catholics arrested in connection with an alleged "terrorist plot." May 7.—Sixteen leaders of the Catholic Action Movement arrested and held for 11 days.

DISESTABLISHMENT BILL

On May 5 the conflict moved into a new, and apparently irreconcileable, phase when a group of Perónist deputies submitted a Bill to amend the constitution to disestablish the Church. Within 15 days it was passed. In the next three weeks events moved swiftly, as the summary indicates—

May 15.—Catholic demonstrations in many leading cities.

May 30.—News of the dismissal of seventeen Catholic professors from the University of La Plata.

June 5.—General Perón's friendly reference to the Russian people—regarded as a gesture of hostility to the Church.

June 11.—100,000 Catholics celebrate Corpus Christi at the cathedral. Afterwards crowds bore the Papal flag on a pole in Congress building's garden. Windows of *La Prensa* smashed.

June 12.—Anti-Church demonstrators marched on the Archdiocesan Palace and Cathedral. Police arrest many Catholics after shooting.

June 14.—Mig. Manuel Tato, assistant Bishop of Buenos Aires, and Mgr. Ramón Novoa, Canon of the Diocese, dismissed by Government decree and blamed for recent disturbances. Dr Casares a Cañuelas and leading judge of the Supreme Court, denounced to Congress by the Government for his part in the events which followed the attack on the cathedral.

June 15.—Mig. Tato and Mgr. Novoa expelled and sent by air to Rio de Janeiro, en route for Rome. Police occupy Archdiocesan Palace and Catholic Action headquarters.

EXCOMMUNICATE ORDER

VATICAN DECREE IN GENERAL TERMS

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

ROME, JUNE 16

By decree of the Consistorial Congregation, the Vatican to-day excommunicated all those involved in the recent "crimes" against the rights of the Roman Catholic Church in Argentina and in the use of violence against ecclesiastical personages.

Although it is usual in the excommunication of those responsible for acts against the Church, the names are not given. To-day's decree makes particular reference to the actions taken against Mgr. Tato, Auxiliary and Vicar-General of the archdiocese of Buenos Aires. "Not only" it declares, "did some persons dare set my hands on the persons of Mgr. Tato, but they impeded the exercise of his jurisdiction and expelled him from Argentine territory."

COMPARISON WITH CHINA

It is pointed out in Vatican circles that the expulsion of the two prelates from Argentina yesterday is in some respect a even graver offence than actions taken against the Church and its representatives in recent years by other Governments. The Roman Catholic clergy expelled from China, for example, were foreigners whereas Mgr. Tato and Mgr. Novoa are Argentine citizens whose right to be in their own country cannot be questioned. It is believed, moreover, that both Cardinal Mindszenty in Hungary and Cardinal Sutphin in Yugoslavia would not have been imprisoned had they been prepared to accept the alternative of leaving their respective countries for Rome.

The two expelled Argentine prelates reach Rome by air to-night.

"SINGULAR" ATTITUDE

The *Observatore Romano*, the organ of the Vatican, to-day criticizes the leading article in *The Times* of June 14. The attitude of *The Times* towards the persecution in Argentina, it says, "is, to say the least, singular." *The Times* does not disguise its antipathy towards the Argentine Catholics nor according a certain sympathy to the Perón régime, the newspaper says, and adds: "In Argentina it is not the case of a struggle between Church and State Action and the Peronist régime, but of an attack which, at a certain stage of its evolution, that régime—for motives which are still mysterious—has sought, to launch against the Catholic Church and its precepts."

"ARGENTINE FALKLANDS"

Buenos Aires, June 16.—The Falkland Islands are designated as a new province of Argentina in a Bill passed by the Argentine Senate last night. According to the proposal, the Falklands will be administered by a Governor appointed by the Argentine Government.

ASSERTION BY GOVERNMENT

"ALL IS NORMAL"

From Our Own Correspondent

NEW YORK, June 17
Buenos Aires remained cut off from the rest of the world today, as far as commercial communications were concerned, but the official Argentine wireless stations, which continued to broadcast throughout the night, gave the official version of yesterday's apparently abortive revolt.

Other versions of events came from Montevideo; according to them there was still some doubt whether the rebellion had been quelled everywhere. One report had it that Rosario, the second largest city in Argentina (population 500,000), some 150 miles north-west of Buenos Aires, was still in rebel hands. The basis of this report was apparently internal police broadcasts giving instructions to provincial authorities.

Meanwhile, at least 36 Argentine rebels aircraft, carrying 90 Air Force officers and men had taken refuge in Uruguay, while two Argentine warships, one of them the coastal defence vessel *Puyrredon*, were reported to be heading for Montevideo.

Meanwhile, the official Argentine wireless made these claims:

(b) Everything is normal in Argentina and the General Confederation of Workers (C.G.T.) which has supported General Perón since he came to power in 1944, has started a 24-hour national strike.

(c) Rear-Admiral José Cordero has been sworn in as Navy Minister replacing Rear-Admiral Aníbal Olózaga, reported to have vanished after the rebellion started.

The Government has taken severe measures against Communists who took advantage of the fight between rebels and loyal forces yesterday "in order to perpetrate wrongful acts in many parts of the capital."

INDIRECTLY CONFIRMED

This last statement probably refers to the attacks by rioters upon Roman Catholic churches, which were confirmed indirectly by General Perón himself in a second broadcast this morning. He blamed the Communists for damage done to churches, and advised Catholic priests to obey police orders. He further undertook on behalf of his Government to prevent any more "deprivations" against churches.

According to unconfirmed reports reaching Montevideo, about 300 churches in Buenos Aires were set on fire yesterday. In his latest broadcast General Perón sought to blame Catholic priests as partly responsible for the revolt which, he asserted, was directed against him personally as the bombing attacks were centred upon Government House.

MORE RESTRICTIVE

The President added that he had learned through intelligence channels of the impending attack and had vacated Government House in time. He warned rioters that the "state of siege" ordered by the Government would prevent any further outbreak of violence.

This "state of siege" is apparently more drastic and more restrictive of civil liberties than the "state of internal war" declared by General Perón during a previous revolt in 1951 and never revoked.

The first telegraphic news of the outbreak to be received directly from Buenos Aires came this afternoon, when the Argentine federal police announced that 156 persons had been killed in yesterday's bombing and street fighting, and another 846 persons wounded, 96 seriously. Meanwhile, the morning newspaper *La Razón* of Buenos Aires to-day reported that 360 persons had been killed.

CAPITAL ATTACKED FOR FIVE HOURS

BOMBS DROPPED ON CROWDED STREETS

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BUENOS AIRES, June 17

Between 200 and 350 lives are reported to have been lost and about 1,000 persons wounded in yesterday's revolt by the Argentine Navy and Air Force against General Perón's Government. The casualties were far heavier than those of any other Argentine armed rebellion in modern times.

The streets of central Buenos Aires were crowded with people going to luncheon when the sound of aircraft motors was heard above the dark, low clouds. Suddenly, two loud explosions from the direction of Government House shook the centre of the city. An aircraft was then seen dive-bombing over Government House, and there was another explosion. People started running in the streets, keeping close to the walls as sporadic rifle fire began. Then more low-flying aircraft came over, and further bombs were dropped in the vicinity of Government House.

MACHINE-GUN FIRE

The attacks lasted about five hours. At first they consisted mainly of rifle fire with occasional bomb explosions, but later there was continuous machine-gun fire between Government House and the Ministry of Marine 400 yards away, where the insurgents had their headquarters.

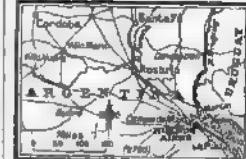
The Argentine Federal police stated that eight bombs fell on Government House and destroyed its middle of the roofline. One bomb fell in the Plaza de Mayo and exploded on neighbouring buildings. Eye-witnesses counted about 25 bomb explosions in all. Many casualties occurred among civilians, when first bombs fell and streets were crowded.

Later in the day a squadron of Gloster Meteor jet-propelled aircraft flew low over the city and fired at Government House with artillery.

It appears that the Argentine Army remained loyal to General Perón. According to an official announcement by the Ministry

of the Army, General Perón arrived at the Ministry, a high building seven hundred yards from Government House, 15 minutes before the first aircraft appeared. The Minister received news that the insurgents had seized the airports of Ezeiza and Moreno outside the federal capital. Simultaneously naval troops were seen advancing from the port of Buenos Aires and from the Ministry of Marine towards Government House and the intention of the Army was to defend it by a regiment of mounted grenadiers and a motorized company. A second rebel air bombardment followed.

At about a half hour after the first aircraft Government troops made the offensive against the navy insurgents. The Ministry of Marine and the rest of artillery was added to the sound of rifles and machine-guns. The sailors retreated to the Ministry of Marine which was the rebel headquarters, and surrendered to the Government House from the windows. Four hours later the first bomb fell. Government troops captured the naval air base at Punta del Indio, 80 miles downstream from Buenos Aires. The rebel bombers had come from Punta del Indio. Soon afterwards Government troops



captured Ezeiza and Moreno airports, in spite of attacks by rebel airmen, and later the sailors in the Ministry of Marine surrendered.

The Ministry of the Army stated that the entire Army remained loyal to the Government. People began assembling in the Plaza de Mayo in front of Government House before the fighting stopped. Occasional shots were still heard while workers entered the plaza cheering for General Perón. The area near Government House was almost covered with broken glass from exploding bombs and shells.

A motor car in front of the episcopal palace adjoining the cathedral was already blazing and inflammable material was being thrown against the front of the police. Soon the palace was burning, and clouds of yellow smoke from the fire were visible. It is understood that the cathedral was spared because contains the tomb of the Argentinian national hero and liberator, General San Martín whose memory is revered by Peruvians.

CHURCHES BURNED DOWN

Last night many of the best-known and most valuable churches in Argentina were burnt down in reprisal for the rebellion. Churches burnt in the city of Buenos Aires include those of San Nicolas de Bari, San Francisco and Socorro, San Juan Sabogal, and San Miguel.

The Argentine General Confederation of Labour ordered a stoppage of work to-day "in memory of those who died in defense of Peronism."

MONTEVIEJO, June 17.—General Perón claimed in his broadcast to-day that the revolt was over and that the country was safe again. The revolt, he said, was connected with events of the Roma Catholic Church, whose members he has been seeking to curb since November. He was a Catholic, and not against religion. He advised Argentine Catholics to await a referendum on his proposal to separate the Church from State.

Military refugees from Argentina said that they had to abandon the revolt because General Perón's men had captured the naval base at Punta Indio, their source of fuel and боеприпасов.

Sofía Campero, the Uruguayan Minister of the Interior, said that the first known refugee was a congressman, Sofía Miguel Angel Zavalá Eric, who had crossed the Plata river to Colonia. He is a member of the Opposition Radical Party.—Associated Press.

LABOUR LEADER'S CLAIM

"NO CONFLICT BETWEEN CHURCH AND STATE"

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

GENEVA, June 17

Events in Argentina were referred to at to-day's sitting of the conference of the International Labour Organization by Sofía Eduardo Viletech, secretary-general of the Argentine General Confederation of Labour. "Hardly 24 hours ago," he said, "the working people, shedding their blood, clearly defeated an insurrection by factions element in league with clerical conspirators."

He spoke of "unfounded lies" spread about a non-existent conflict between State and Church and went on: "Oligarchy and capital had plotted for 10 years of peaceful co-operation, though in alliance with a section of the clergy with a view to stopping our trade union movement, which is the most vital asset of the new Argentina. They wished to smash trade unions solidly by an association of belief which had nothing to do with social justice questions, for labour is honoured whatever it be Catholic, Buddhist or Protestant."

"My Government and country are convinced Catholic. What they refuse to believe is the instrument of the repressions of the working-class. The German clergy which by its behaviour has denied the equality of man which Christ created."

PERSECUTION DENIED

Sofía Viletech claimed on May 1 the General Confederation of Labour petitioned the Government to separate Church and State and that as a result a constituent assembly was to be convened to amend the constitution to this end. There was no conflict between State and Church but between the people's organizations and then教会.

There was no religious persecution, Sofía Viletech claimed, and he added: "We shall not, however allow anyone hiding behind the silly teaching of the Nazis etc to interfere in the action of the General Confederation of Labour which in harmony with the high standards applied by the I.L.O. stands outside all religious and sectarian tendencies."

"MORE TROOPS REVOLT"

MONTEVIEJO, June 17.—A rebel Argentine radio broadcast heard here claimed to-night that troops in three provinces had risen to join the revolt against President Perón. "The struggle continues," the radio added.

The broadcast said that the rebels had spread to the ground forces of San J. F. C., Córdoba and Entre Ríos Provinces. It also claimed that they had seized at Belgrano, near Buenos Aires, four tanks and that two cruisers were preparing to join the naval rebels under the command of Rear Admiral Olivieri who, it had been reported earlier by the Government radio had been replaced as Navy Minister by Admiral Luis Horne.—Russo.

LABOUR LEADER'S CLAIM

"NO CONFLICT BETWEEN CHURCH AND STATE"

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

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He spoke of "unfounded lies" spread about a "non-existent conflict between State and Church," and went on: "Oligarchy and capitalism, defeated after 10 years of peaceful civil struggle, sought an alliance with a section of the clergy with a view to destroying our trade union movement, which is the most solid asset of the new Argentina. They wished to smash trade union solidarity by raising questions of belief which had nothing to do with specific labour questions; for labour is honoured, whether it be Catholic, Buddhist, or Protestant.

"My Government and country are convinced Catholics. What they refuse to become is the instrument of the aspirations of a section of the Roman clergy which by its behaviour has denied the equality of man which Christ preached."

PERSECUTION DENIED

Señor Vuletich said that on May 1 the General Confederation of Labour petitioned the Government to separate Church and State, and that as a result a constituent assembly was to be convened to amend the constitution in this sense. There was no conflict between State and Church, but "only between the people's organizations and their enemies."

There was no religious persecution, Señor Vuletich claimed, and he added: "We shall not, however, allow anyone, hiding behind the lofty teaching of the Nazarene, to interfere with the action of the General Confederation of Labour which, in harmony with the high standards upheld by the I.L.O., stands outside all religious and sectarian tendencies."

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The broadcast said that the revolt had spread to the ground forces of Santa Fé, Córdoba and Entre Ríos Provinces. It also claimed that the naval station at Belgrano, near Buenos Aires, had rebelled, and that two cruisers were preparing to aid the naval rebels under the command of Rear Admiral Olivieri who, it had been reported earlier by the Government radio, had been replaced as Navy Minister by Admiral Luis Horne.—*Reuter.*

BUENOS AIRES QUIET

STATE OF SIEGE PERSISTS

GEN. PERÓN'S OFFER

'FREE ELECTIONS' PROMISED

From Our Own Correspondent

BUENOS AIRES, JUNE 19

Churches in the centre of Buenos Aires were not especially crowded to-day partly because fear kept some people away, and also because not everybody was sure which churches had been burnt. About half a dozen police stood outside each church to protect the congregation and prevent Roman Catholic demonstrations after Mass.

The federal police announced last night that funeral services would be allowed to-day for the victims of Thursday's fighting. Roman Catholics were warned, however, against demonstrations, and reminded that under the state of siege gatherings of more than two persons were forbidden.

UNEXPLODED BOMBS

A message has been sent to the Senate transferring vigilance and control over religious bodies from the Foreign Ministry to the Ministry of the Interior and Justice. Argentine relations with the Church have always been maintained through the Foreign Ministry, the full title of which is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Religion. The implication is that henceforth the Holy See has no jurisdiction in Argentina so far as the Government is concerned.

The city of Buenos Aires began returning to normal yesterday, and shops and places of amusement opened for the first time since the revolt. The zone round the Plaza de Mayo was cordoned off by police because some bombs dropped by rebel aircraft were still unexploded and Army engineers were preparing to detonate them. All the inhabitants of the danger zone had to evacuate their dwellings. Bloodstains were still to be seen in many places. Armed police, federal gendarmerie, and troops patrolled the centre of the city.

The Ministry of Commerce has fixed maximum prices for window-panes, to prevent profiteers from deriving advantage from the enormous number of windows broken.

The federal police have offered protection to priests and nuns "to prevent them from being individually murdered or assaulted by Communists." The priests, however, declined the offer of hospitality at the police station, but accepted police escort to their homes. The police throughout Argentina have been instructed to watch for the safety of priests and nuns and their property. There are several indications that the danger to which priests have been exposed is passing.

WILL OF THE PEOPLE

The Argentine semi-official Press reported to-day that the leaders of the revolt were Rear-Admiral Aníbal O. Olivieri, who was Minister of Marine up to the moment of the naval rising, Rear-Admiral Samuel Toranzo Calderón, of the Marine Infantry; and Vice-Admiral Benjamín Garginio, of the Marine Infantry. The last-named is stated to have shot himself dead when the rising failed. The other two are reported to have been captured. Admiral Olivieri was at the naval hospital when the rising occurred, but attended a Cabinet meeting on the previous day. Rear-Admiral Luis J. Cortés was immediately appointed Minister of Marine to succeed him. The supreme council of the armed forces is interrogating prisoners to ascertain who were the leaders.

BUENOS AIRES, June 19.—General Perón, speaking at the headquarters of the General Confederation of Labour, said last night that he believed he represented the will of the Argentine people. But "I am ready to submit myself to free elections under the control of whoever may want to control them, and with absolute freedom for all. We shall see whether the Argentine people fail to support me." The aim of the abortive coup had been "to kill me—as gangsters always do. But it was unnecessary to kill thousands and wreck half the city. By killing one man neither law, reason, nor justice will perish."—Reuter.

Church and State in South America

The revolt against PRESIDENT PERÓN, whatever its outcome, must have wide repercussions outside as well as inside Argentina. Since PRESIDENT PERÓN came to power nine years ago there have been several attempts to challenge his authority. Some have been confined to the ever narrowing constitutional channels open to opponents of the Peronista régime; others, like the present revolt and the rising of army officers in 1951, have made use of force. But these have all been of a pattern familiar to most South American countries. They have aimed at replacing one political group by another, and personal rivalries have played as large a part in them as differences of doctrine. The present revolt, on the other hand, seems directly to have been set off by the dispute which has been carried on with mounting intensity between PRESIDENT PERÓN and the militant wing of the Roman Catholic Church in Argentina. It does not follow that this is a revolt of Church against State, or even that it is a civil revolt religiously inspired, but it is certain that if the leaders of Church and State in Argentina had not now been at loggerheads the revolt would not have taken place.

Relations between Church and State in most South American States have not always been smooth, but in the last generation they have, on the whole, everywhere reached a stage of equilibrium. The Church may be established or disestablished, but in some form or another its special position in the life of South American nations is recognized. In Argentina, however, the educational power of the clergy has since 1945 been greatly enhanced by PRESIDENT PERÓN. If he had simply proposed that the voters should be asked to decide on the question of disestablishing the Church there would have been many protests but no revolt. No doubt the President's purely political opponents have seized the present opportunity to make a fresh bid for power, but even without their intervention a collision was inevitable. "The clergy" as a whole have been publicly charged with "allying themselves with reaction" and with "materialism and pride." This is a challenge of a sort unfamiliar in South America. It strikes at the root of society as it is still organized in that continent, and none of Argentina's neighbours can be indifferent to the challenge or to the way in which the challenge is met.

When the monarchies of Spain and Portugal disappeared from the South American scene the Roman Catholic Church and the great estates were left as the only coherent traditions of authority. The forces of liberalism and nationalism which overthrew the monarchies have never yet proved strong enough to take their place. But PRESIDENT PERÓN believes that his brand of popular nationalism, with its appeal to the underprivileged and the towns, can be an effective substitute. He has crippled the power of the big landlords and now moves on his next target, believing that his opponents are making use of the authority of the Church. If PRESIDENT PERÓN's campaign is successful it must encourage the Church's opponents in other parts of South America, where, though openly anti-clerical parties are almost unknown, nationalism is restive and there are always politicians ready to copy successful precedents. On the other hand the Church will have been given warning, and all those who dislike PRESIDENT PERÓN's violence and egotism will be encouraged to ensure that the present equilibrium between Church and State is maintained in their countries. The Eucharistic Congress at Rio de Janeiro next month may be the starting point for a counter-attack—if one is by then still needed.

JUNTA'S POWERS IN ARGENTINA

DOUBTFUL PLACE OF GEN. PERÓN

FORBIDDEN NAMES

From Our Own Correspondent

NEW YORK, JUNE 21

Reports from Buenos Aires to-day openly speculate upon the likelihood that President Perón, while retaining his titular authority, has in fact lost control of the Government to a military junta headed by General Franklin Lucero, Minister of the Army, who also calls himself "commander-in-chief of the forces of repression."

Apparently no definite decision on reorganizing the Government came from yesterday afternoon's conference of Army chiefs, for it was later announced that the generals would meet again within three days. Earlier reports of the existence of a triumvirate which was said to be in virtual control of the country are to some extent being discounted, for it is not yet certain which military leaders the Army will nominate to share power with General Lucero.

NO PUBLIC APPEARANCE

Certainly President Perón is much less to the fore than hitherto. Yesterday, for instance, Argentina celebrated its annual flag day without any public appearance by General Perón, although last year he was the principal figure in the ceremony before the statue of General Manuel Belgrano (who designed the Argentine flag) in the Plaza de Mayo. Yesterday the function was purely military, with a nominee of General Lucero laying the wreath at the foot of the statue.

Another indication of which way the wind is blowing is the instructions given to the Argentine Press by military Press officers as to the names of certain officials who are not to be mentioned in the newspapers. These names are said to include the police chief, Miguel Gamboa; the Secretary of Information, Raúl Apold; the Minister of the Interior, Angel Ber lenghi; and the Vice-President of Argentina, Rear-Admiral Alberto Teissaire. These men may be unpopular with the Army either because they are too closely associated with President Perón or because they are regarded as too leftist in their politics.

Meanwhile, there are said to be signs that the Army is trying to re-establish good relations with the Roman Catholic Church. A score of priests were released from gaol while about 50 members of the opposition party were arrested. According to official announcements, "the situation is getting more normal all the time."

AIR FORCE CHIEFS SEE GEN. LUCERO

18 AIRCRAFT RETURN FROM URUGUAY

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BUENOS AIRES, JUNE 21

General Lucero, Argentine Minister of the Army and commander of the forces of repression of insurrection, whose star is rising, yesterday received visits from the Air Minister, Brigadier San Martín, and the Commander-in-Chief of the Air Force, Brigadier-General Juan Fabri, and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Brigadier Major Bustos Videla. General Lucero was accompanied by the Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Chief of Staff of the Army.

The only mention of General Perón's name that can be found in Argentine newspapers to-day is a brief announcement acknowledging collectively "thousands of telegrams" expressing sympathy and support over the recent revolt.

General Lucero is 57 years old and was born in the Argentine mountain province of San Luis. He came into close contact with General Perón first in 1944, when General Perón was War Minister and General Lucero was appointed secretarial chief of the War Ministry. General Lucero visited Britain and other European countries on a special mission in 1946 and the next year was appointed Argentine Military Attaché in Washington. He became Minister of the Army in October, 1948.

BUENOS AIRES, June 21.—The State radio to-night restored the traditional nightly news bulletin dedicated to Eva Perón, late wife of the President, after its surprise omission from the programme last night.—Reuter.

EMBASSY STATEMENT

The Argentine Embassy in London yesterday issued the following statement:—

"Contrary to news being received from Uruguay, the Argentine cruisers, the Pueyrredon and the 25 de Mayo have remained at their bases. Three more of the officers in revolt were authorized to return home at their own request on account of having been involved in the recent events under false pretences."

In a letter addressed to President Perón through the Argentine Ambassador in London, the Protestant Truth Society of England says it places on record "its appreciation of the stand which his Excellency, the President of Argentina, has made in confronting the claims of the Roman Catholic Church to dominate the political situation in Argentina."

ARGENTINE CABINET RESIGNS

GEN. PERÓN'S LIBERTY OF ACTION

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BUENOS AIRES, JUNE 23

The whole Argentine Cabinet resigned this afternoon to give General Perón a free hand in reorganizing the Ministry.

General Perón's stock still seemed to be rising to-day as the country gradually returned to normal conditions. The President received his Ministers to-day in the presidential residence, and to-night he broadcast a message to the Argentine people. General Lucero, in an interview to-day for Argentine "war correspondents," said that the situation was quite normal throughout Argentina.

The Peronista *bloc* in the Chamber of Deputies has submitted a Bill authorizing the Government to spend 200m. pesos (£5m.) to help victims of the recent revolt. It is announced that the naval prisoners taken, and now in a penitentiary, are in special quarters away from the ordinary convicts.

'AMBITIOUS MEN' OF ARGENTINA

BLAME APPORTIONED BY GEN. PERÓN

From Our Own Correspondent

BUENOS AIRES, JUNE 24

General Perón's broadcast to the Argentine people last night sounded confident and light-hearted. It was free from rancour and angry threats. It was typical of his speeches with levity and solemnity alternating.

He called the rebels "four irresponsible and unconscientious kids led by ambitious men also irresponsible." (This was presumably a parody of the Argentine saying, "four cats," used to imply that opponents are numerically insignificant.) He said that after their surrender conscripts of the Marine infantry declared that when ordered to attack Government House they thought "they were going to liberate General Perón."

MURDER BY BOMBARDMENT

So much falsehood and lack of understanding, as well as lack of patriotism, would make him feel like abandoning the Government to-day if he were not stimulated by the people and his comrades in arms. If he had not already done so it was because of the consequences which such selfishness would cause to the country. Only great willpower, sense of duty, and patriotism led him to continue with so much infamy, disloyalty, and treason. But everything had a limit. It is unlikely that General Perón meant that he was seriously thinking of going, although it could be taken that way.

The President gave an outline of the events of the revolt which, he said, he could not give before because of the censorship imposed by the state of siege. He said that a conspiracy was hatched last November for a military revolt supported by the political opposition of the Democratic Union, and was later joined by some clericals. The aim was to murder the President of the Republic through air bombardment or land action and to intimidate civilians by air bombing or machine-gunning the streets.

He said that after throwing their bombs and firing their weapons against the defenceless multitude the rebels, with their suitcases already packed as usual, took the road to Uruguay. In the Argentine provinces nothing was expected and nothing happened. The indiscriminate action of the rebels in killing men, women, and children in the streets showed their hatred of the people.

ARGENTINE WORKERS THANK ARMY

LEADERS' VISIT TO GEN. LUCERO

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BUENOS AIRES, JUNE 25

The position of General Perón, who has depended for support mainly on the Army and the workers, is considered to have been greatly strengthened by what was said during a visit paid by leaders of the Argentine General Confederation of Labour to General Lucero, Minister of the Army.

Sefior Hector de Pietro, acting Secretary of the confederation, and members of the secretariat called on General Lucero to express the workers' gratitude to the Army for having quelled the rising of June 16. The interview is stated to have been extremely cordial. The visitors told the Minister that several trade unions showed their support for the Army on the day of the rising by distributing 5,000 packets of cigarettes and hot drinks to the troops. The workers and leaders expressed the desire of the confederation to show its gratitude in some way which would leave a permanent record, and they left the nature of the testimonial to General Lucero's choice.

The Minister expressed the Army's thanks, and replied that the time and nature of the tribute should be decided by the President of Argentina and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, General Perón.

RELATIONS WITH CHURCH

There is increasing evidence that General Perón wishes to end his quarrel with the Roman Catholic Church: and experience shows that he is more conciliatory when he feels strong. Priests and Franciscan monks are again to be seen walking in Buenos Aires streets in safety, and strong forces of police are stationed outside churches to prevent further attacks. Soon after the rising of June 16 the semi-official Press ceased its campaign against the Church. Some 350 Roman Catholics who had been arrested during the past few weeks have been released.

It is reported that the Papal Nuncio will visit the Foreign Minister next Wednesday, and there is already talk of an Argentine concordat with the Holy See. The deplorable scenes of the past fortnight have cast a veil of sorrow over Argentina, but many Roman Catholics believe that the burning of the churches will strengthen the spiritual influence of the Church in the long run.

ARGENTINA LIFTS CENSORSHIP

19 RADICAL PARTY LEADERS FREED

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BUENOS AIRES, JUNE 27

The Argentine censorship on outgoing Press dispatches, imposed when the naval and air force revolt occurred on June 16, was lifted to-day, and newspaper correspondents are no longer required to submit Spanish translations of telegrams.

Newspaper correspondents and telegraph companies are nevertheless held responsible for the nature of news transmitted, and news considered alarmist is liable to be submitted to the Government for approval or rejection. The position is now the same as before the revolt.

BUENOS AIRES, June 27.—The Government announced to-day that 19 leaders of the opposition Radical Party have been released. They had been under arrest since the rising on June 16. Four Radical Party leaders remained under detention. They include David Michel Torino, former director of the newspaper *El Intransigente*, of Salta.—*Associated Press*.

ARGENTINE LABOUR CHIEF RESIGNS

RELATIONS WITH CHURCH

BUENOS AIRES, June 28.—The Secretary-General of the Argentine General Confederation of Labour, Señor Eduardo Vuletich, who was prominent in rallying workers against the Roman Catholic Church, handed in his resignation to-day. Later he had a long conference with President Perón. It was Señor Vuletich who in a May Day speech this year induced the workers to demand from General Perón the separation of Church and State. During recent days there has been little official mention of his name.

The last 36 of some 300 Catholics detained in the archdiocesan palace after the disorders on June 12 were released yesterday without any charge being made against them.

Roman Catholic colleges which were deprived of the right to hold examinations last March were to-day informed that the privilege had been granted again.

A police announcement says that a "Communist plot" to create alarm through the distribution of leaflets, especially in churches, has been discovered at Eva Perón, capital of the province of Buenos Aires. Five men have been arrested.—Reuter.

MINISTER'S DECISION

MONTEVIDEO, June 28.—Señor Borlenghi, the Argentine Minister of the Interior, who was regarded as one of the leading influences in the fight against the Church, has handed his resignation to President Perón, according to reports reaching here. It was also reported from Buenos Aires to-night that Señor Pietro, vice-secretary of the General Confederation of Labour, had succeeded Señor Vulich as Secretary-General.—Reuter.

CHURCH PROCESSION IN BUENOS AIRES

RECONCILIATION WITH STATE

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BUENOS AIRES, JULY 4

Mass, followed by Benediction, was said in the cathedral of Buenos Aires at the weekend for the first time since the building was attacked three weeks ago.

The cathedral was filled, and a large crowd of Roman Catholics unable to enter heard the Mass in the street outside. Afterwards the congregation formed into a procession and visited the churches that were burnt on June 16. The Argentine national anthem was frequently sung, and among the slogans heard were "Argentina is Catholic," "Long live Cardinal Copello," and "Long live the Bishops." The words "Christ is King" were chanted repeatedly. "Long live Argentina" was also heard.

As the procession passed the military club there was silence, but cheers were heard outside the naval club. Small forces of police were on duty, and behaved with the utmost courtesy. It was evident that General Perón's campaign against the Church had been abandoned, and the atmosphere of old times had returned.

Another sign of reconciliation between Church and State was notable in the text of the oath that General Perón administered to the new Ministers on Friday. The Ministers swore allegiance "on the Holy Gospels to God, our Lord, and the country." Reference to religion had been dropped from the text of the oath soon after the religious conflict began last November, and it has only now been restored.

The supreme council of the armed forces estimates the material damage done in the naval and air force revolt of June 16 at 50m. pesos, the equivalent of about £1,250,000. The council has placed an embargo on the property of all persons who took part in the revolt. The estimate of the damage evidently does not include the burnt churches and the archiepiscopal headquarters.

TEAR GAS USED

BUENOS AIRES, July 4.—Police used tear gas to-day to break up a group of school-girl demonstrators at Córdoba city. Several of the girls were reported injured and a number of people were arrested. The girls had struck in support of the headmistress of the Alejandro Caro college, Señorita Alvar Diaz de Morales, who had been expelled by resolution of the Ministry of Education.—Reuter.

CONCILIATION IN ARGENTINA

PRESIDENT PERÓN'S BROADCAST

PARTY TRUCE URGED

From Our Own Correspondent

BUENOS AIRES, JULY 5

General Perón addressed the Argentine people to-day in a message broadcast from Government House. It was the first time he had spoken from Government House since the Naval and Air Force revolt of June 16.

The President began in an angry tone and called the rebels "criminals"; but later he made an appeal for conciliation. He said that any political party in Argentina could cooperate with the Peronistas and denied rumours that the Government was weak. He did not mention the Communists nor his quarrel with the Roman Catholic Church.

General Perón said that he had returned to Government House, which was only partly rebuilt. Many lives had been lost in a criminal rising and many were wounded. They were the anonymous heroes of a humble people struck down by infamy and fatality—crimes against the country and humanity.

The President then said that some people were not accepting their smashing defeat of June 16 and had engaged in sedition by telephone. It was a superficial tide which time would overcome. The situation was returning to normal. He believed that political parties were now partisans of legality and recognized the need of law and order. For the first time for many years Opposition voices were demanding peace and understanding among Argentines. The Government had been asking for it for 10 years. He welcomed the change and was willing to respond. In conclusion General Perón asked his followers to show their good will and party discipline by accepting a truce in the party struggle.

MINISTER RESIGNS

Señor Raúl Alejandro Apold, Under-Secretary of Information of the Presidency, who ranks as a Minister, has resigned on grounds of health and his resignation was accepted to-day. He has been succeeded by Señor Leon Bouche, a journalist.

The Government of the province of Buenos Aires has allowed the reappearance of six newspapers which were recently closed down—the *Nueva Era* of Tandil, *El Nacional* and *Tribuna*, both of Dolores, *La Voz del Pueblo* and *La Hora*, both of Tres Arroyos, and *Democracia*, of Bahía Blanca.

Eight Radical leaders who were arrested at Morón, Buenos Aires province, on June 16 and imprisoned in the gaols of Mercedes and Olmos, have been released. Eleven more Argentine Roman Catholics arrested on the day of the rising have been freed provisionally, including one woman.

BUENOS AIRES, July 5.—Señor Leon Bouche began his journalistic career with *El Hogar* 30 years ago and was appointed editor in 1932. *El Hogar* caters for upper social life, but came to terms with the régime by giving pictorial material on Señor Perón's Government and policy.

The displaced Señor Apold was considered to be the executor of stringent measures of control and repression against the Press in recent years. Since he became Press chief in 1949 he has had almost unchallenged authority over the Press, radio, and cinema. It culminated with the anti-clerical campaign in the days preceding last month's coup.

While he was in office American news agencies were harassed and their communications cut off. The Liberal newspaper *La Prensa* was wrested from its traditional owners by law of Congress and handed to the powerful Confederation of Labour. The Peronista Press monopoly, Alea, was consolidated and acquired a majority of newspapers in the capital and province of Buenos Aires. Through newsprint control he was able to strangle the publication of any newspaper or magazine.—*Reuter*.

BUENOS AIRES RIOTING

SHOUTS FOR REBEL ADMIRAL

From Our Own Correspondent

BUENOS AIRES, JULY 10

An anti-Government demonstration here yesterday was followed to-day by two outbursts of rioting in the centre of Buenos Aires.

The first of to-day's outbursts occurred after Mass, when the congregation formed a procession outside the Cathedral and a big crowd hostile to the Government gathered and shouted the seditious word: "Liberty!" Fire engines appeared and poured water on the demonstrators, who reassembled, though it was a bitterly cold winter day for a wetting. At least two shots were fired, and demonstrators scattered.

Many well dressed women were present during the rioting, and drenched fur coats were seen. Young women egged on their male escorts to defy the police. Fire engines rushed down the streets spraying water wherever demonstrators gathered. Though Mass at the Cathedral provided the occasion for people to gather, the slogans shouted indicated that it was not primarily a Roman Catholic demonstration but was composed of enemies of the Government generally. The Argentine hierarchy and Catholic Action have opposed violence.

POLICEMEN INJURED

Later more rioting occurred outside the Naval Club, where about 1,000 persons assembled and cheered Admiral Olivier, the former Minister of Marine, who led the recent unsuccessful naval rising. Fire engines turned hoses on the demonstrators, who replied with volleys of stones, and police who arrived were also stoned. In riots in the Plaza de Mayo and later near the Naval Club a number of shots were fired, many people were arrested, and several were injured by police batons. A police inspector was wounded by a bullet near the Plaza de Mayo and several policemen and firemen were injured by stones.

When the procession passed the premises of the independent newspaper *La Nación* there were shouts of "long live the Press of freedom!" and "long live *La Nación*!" The great majority of the demonstrators were women. The semi-official Press says that outside the Naval Club there were cheers for the naval officers who are on trial for leading the recent rising, and it criticizes the demonstrators for carrying papal as well as Argentine flags.

The evening newspapers last night unanimously criticized Roman Catholica for the first time since the beginning of the truce. The demonstration had every appearance of spontaneity. A few hundred people assembled outside the Cathedral of Buenos Aires yesterday morning, on the occasion of the anniversary of the declaration of Argentine independence in 1816. After singing the national anthem and shouting Catholic slogans they visited the burnt churches and marched in procession through the central streets.

General Perón's name has again mysteriously disappeared from the Peronista Press, which to-day gives prominence to General José Embrión, Under Secretary of the Ministry of the Army. The Government cancelled all official celebrations of independence day in mourning for those who fell in the revolt, but all units of the armed forces held ceremonial parades in barracks, and General Embrión took a march-past in the barracks of the motorized regiment which defended Government House on June 16. Afterwards he addressed the troops and praised their valour. He emphasized the unity of Army and people.

MODERATION SHOWN

The Peronista newspapers this morning treat yesterday's demonstration with surprising moderation. *Democracia*, which is considered to be the Government's mouthpiece, said under the heading "Voices of hatred which conspire against Argentine concord": "Because we are more generous we repress our indignation, and shall not give the episode more importance than it deserves." It devoted its principal leading article to rebuking those who have talked of the threat of civil war in Argentina. There would not be a civil war, it said, simply because there was nobody to wage it. Only the people and the Army could wage civil war, and both had shown themselves united and loyal to the republic.

It is notable that *Democracia* did not say, "loyal to General Perón," or even mention the President's name. The reference to civil war presumably derives from rumours of naval disaffection.

NEW PARTY'S PLEA IN ARGENTINA

RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL FREEDOM

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BUENOS AIRES, JULY 13

Taking advantage of General Perón's plea for conciliation and pacification, the Argentine Christian Democratic Party was launched yesterday.

Ironically, attempts to form this party were one of the President's pretexts for opening his anti-clerical campaign last November. A manifesto issued by the Christian Democratic Party declared that it had not come into existence to displace any political party but to fill a void in one of the greatest crises in history.

The world had abandoned the principles of western civilization and replaced them with the monster of an all-powerful modern State. Christian principles had been forgotten. The burning of churches had shown that without political and economic freedom there was no religious freedom; freedom was one and indivisible. Argentina to-day was being asphyxiated by a state of unendurable tension caused by hatred and class warfare that had been preached for several years. The new party stood for peace and non-violence.

CHURCH RUINS IN BUENOS AIRES

OFFER TO REBUILD BY STATE REJECTED

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BUENOS AIRES, JULY 11

The Argentine Government has approached the Roman Catholic ecclesiastical authorities with an offer to rebuild at the expense of the state the Buenos Aires churches which were burnt on June 16. The Church is reported to have rejected the offer.

Señor Dupeyron, the Minister of Public Works, to-day visited the church of Santo Domingo, which is now practically a ruin, and informed the priest in charge that the Government proposed to rebuild it, because it was a national monument, and the law made the Government responsible for the upkeep of national monuments. The priest expressed unwillingness that the church should be rebuilt by the state. The Minister replied that the Government would nevertheless proceed to rebuild it. Workmen from the Ministry of Public Works were sent to the church and erected boards outside it as a preparatory to rebuilding.

RELIGIOUS PILGRIMAGES

The burnt churches have been the scene of religious pilgrimages, and the Government is anxious to remove sights which are detrimental to its prestige. The Church, on the other hand, realizes the spiritual value of these symbols of vandalism, and is not willing to forget too easily the injuries and indignities it has suffered during the past eight months.

Cardinal Copello, the Archbishop of Buenos Aires and the Primate of Argentina, and the leaders of Catholic Action have repudiated those who took part in yesterday's rioting under the banner of Catholicism. They recalled that Catholics had been told not to take part in religious acts unauthorized by the Church.

BUENOS AIRES RIOTING

SHOUTS FOR REBEL ADMIRAL

From Our Own Correspondent

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PERÓN PARTY CHANGES

PRESIDENT GIVES UP LEADERSHIP

From Our Own Correspondent

BUENOS AIRES, JULY 15

General Perón addressed members of the Argentine congress to-day and informed them that he had ceased to be chief of the Peronista Party, in order to be President of all Argentines.

He said he was resolved to restore all forms of freedom and to govern in accordance with the Argentine constitution. He promised to lift the state of internal war in a few days and to grant complete freedom of the Press. Henceforth, all Argentines were free to elect their party organizations.

The Government had been obliged, he said, to resort to certain limitations of freedom. This they did not deny, but they had never used terror to achieve their aims: they had not killed anyone to achieve them, whereas Peronistas had been killed by their enemies. Now that their objects were achieved, Peronistas would not go on fighting against shadows. They had carried out all their plans. The situation was not brilliant, but it was not bad. The Peronista revolution had ended; now a new stage was beginning.

RESTRICTIONS TO END

General Perón then said: "I shall cease to be head of a revolution and become President of all Argentines, friends or enemies. My situation has changed radically." All restrictions would be removed, and all guarantees, rights, and liberties would be restored. They had been imposed only to achieve Peronista aims. It was not the moment to start low controversies. The Government's purpose was to pacify the country.

General Perón added that henceforth the Government would govern only, and would leave politics to the politicians. It was a new stage in the Peronista movement. He had never been a man of impulse or passion, but acted only after meditation. He wanted no more fighting.

Restoration of the liberties of Argentines, lost during the past 12 years, is demanded by political parties as the price of cooperation with General Perón's Government.

Replies of different parties to the President's invitation to conciliation have not yet all been issued, but their tenor is known. A Conservative declaration said that to-day all Argentina lived amid rumour and fear; there was need for a complete amnesty for all political and religious prisoners. It demanded the reversal of all measures taken against the Roman Catholic Church.

Many Argentines doubt whether it is possible for General Perón to govern liberally and democratically after being absolute ruler for nearly 10 years. Many wonder whether political parties will be the decisive factor in the present crisis and eyes are turned anxiously towards the army—and, more apprehensively, towards the powerful General Confederation of Labour.

An Argentine federal judge has ruled that persons discussing politics at home with members of their own families cannot be prosecuted for *lèse-majesté*. This decision was given in a case involving a woman who was overheard talking about General Perón in her kitchen with her two daughters. She was denounced to the police by a woman informer and was prosecuted under the penal code. The judge's ruling was upheld by the Criminal Court of Appeal.

PERÓN POLICE DENOUNCED

FAILURE TO DEFEND CHURCHES

PEOPLE PERPLEXED

From Our Own Correspondent

BUENOS AIRES, JULY 16

Within a few hours of General Perón's statement to legislators on Friday that all forms of freedom would be restored in Argentina the independent newspaper *La Nación* took the opportunity to publish one of the most devastating accusations ever made against an Argentine Government.

It was a statement made by the ecclesiastical controller of the archbishopric, Monsignor Bolatti, to the Minister for Public Works, Señor Dupuyron, that on June 16 Federal police refused to intervene when the archiepiscopal seat—situated in full view of Government House—and nine Roman Catholic churches in Buenos Aires were sacked and set on fire.

Mgr. Bolatti said the destruction of the archiepiscopal seat was carried out while police forces charged with guarding and defending it maintained an attitude of passive non-intervention.

In consequence of the attack, sacking, burning and destruction of the building, the cardinal primate, prelates, priests and staff became homeless and had to seek temporary shelter on the premises of various religious institutions. The library, containing more than 80,000 volumes and many historical documents, was burnt.

Until now the Argentine Press had not been allowed to publish the truth about the fires but had been obliged to print the Government version, blaming Communists.

ARGENTINES PUZZLED

Argentina's promised freedom has caused perplexity, because people do not know how far it is true and how long it will last. Soon after General Perón addressed legislators, 15 young men and women were arrested at La Plata (now called Eva Perón City) for demonstrating in favour of constitutional government and against political persecution. Moreover it is not the first time that General Perón has offered the olive branch to opponents and declared that he is President of all Argentines.

The Peronists newspaper *Democracia* to-day accused the opposition of not responding to the President's appeal for conciliation except with verbal torrents, and of breaking the truce with "provocative street demonstrations and pastorals."

The Argentine crisis is not over. General Perón is believed to have been under army pressure to seek a conciliation. But he has been under pressure before from the army, notably when Eva Perón abandoned her candidature for the Argentine vice-presidency. Twice in recent years he has been under pressure from the General Confederation of Labour. These pressures are characteristic of Argentine and Hispanic politics. To-day the situation is graver, because recent events have wounded feelings.

The strength of General Perón's position is that a military figure has not appeared willing to step into his shoes and deal with the thorny problem of the General Confederation of Labour. General Perón alone combines political flair and personal magnetism.

ADMIRAL A PRISONER

A popular hero of the Opposition, especially of Catholics to-day, is Admiral Olivieri—who gave the rising the distinction and prestige of being led by the Minister of Marine. Admiral Olivieri is now a prisoner, possibly faced with a firing squad. It is considered unlikely, however, that the death penalty will be imposed, because of the peculiar horror that it arouses in Argentine public opinion. Moreover, it would not suit any military or naval leader to create a precedent.

Commotion has been caused by the disappearance of the Rosario physician, Dr. Ingallinella, an alleged Communist, who is believed to have died under torture at the headquarters of the Rosario police to make him "confess" that Communists burned the churches. The Rosario Medical Association has appointed a committee to investigate the matter and has accused the police of trying to hush up a scandal. Various other Argentine medical associations have expressed indignation at the inhumanity of the police.

DISSENSION IN PERON PARTY

RIVALS FOR OFFICE

From Our Own Correspondent

BUENOS AIRES, JULY 24

A split, involving a struggle for the spoils of office, has occurred in the ranks of the Peronista block in the Argentine Chamber of Deputies over interpretation of General Perón's address to Peronista legislators 10 days ago.

The bone of contention is the election of party authorities in the chamber, especially the offices of the president and the vice-presidents. The women's branch of the Peronista Party has sided with the powerful General Confederation of Labour against the more moderate men's branch, which is regarded as the political wing of the Peronista movement. For five days the two opposing groups have been meeting separately in the Chamber of Deputies building, the moderates upstairs and the women's and workers' deputies downstairs. If agreement is not reached, the more extreme group will win by force of numbers. The women's sympathy with the workers is attributed to the inspiration of the late Eva Perón, who founded the women's Peronista branch.

It is surprising that Peronista dissensions have occurred when the enemy is at the gate. Normally in Argentina a split in the governing party is a sign of strength, and it is usual to close ranks in face of common danger.

NAVY'S MOVEMENTS

The Government is still taking precautions against air attack. Motorized anti-aircraft artillery are stationed ready for action outside the Ministry of Army building, situated within 200 yards of Government House, and similar precautions have been taken near the presidential residence. The public is following anxiously the movement of Argentines warships. The Government last week ordered the high seas fleet to leave its base at Puerto Belgrano, in the south of Buenos Aires province, and sail southward along the Patagonia coast for manoeuvres.

The Ministry of Marine announced on Friday that the fleet had arrived at the Patagonian port of Puerto Madryn. It is learnt that General Lucero, Minister of the Army, who led the fight against the naval and air force rebels, went to Puerto Belgrano by air on Friday. It is conjectured that he went there to ascertain which naval units were loyal to General Perón.

The newspaper *Democracia*, considered the Government's mouthpiece, to-day in a leading article ominously warned "enemies of the people" that they were playing with fire by distributing pamphlets and spreading rumours. *Democracia* said that General Perón, on the night of June 16, should have allowed the people to go out into the streets and avenge their dead and wounded by taking the lives of those known to be their enemies. Few people knew that on June 16 the Army, at the request of the rebel leaders, prevented the people from capturing the Ministry of Marine rebel headquarters and taking the law into their own hands.

Buenos Aires provincial police have announced that they have found explosives at a Roman Catholic school run by priests at San Isidro, a suburb of the capital. According to the police the headmaster, Father Pérez del Viso, said they were needed to defend the building in case of attack, while the physics master, Father Pablo Bovio, said they were for making fireworks to celebrate a religious festival.

MORE BUENOS AIRES RIOTING

PERONISTA PARTY RESIGNATIONS

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BUENOS AIRES, JULY 22

Rioting, in which a man was killed, occurred in the theatre and cinema district of Buenos Aires shortly before 1 a.m. to-day.

The streets were crowded with people leaving cinemas when a column of demonstrators, said by the police to be Radicals, marched down the street shouting the word "liberty" and other anti-Government slogans. The column was intercepted by a strong force of police. Shots were heard and theatregoers fled in panic. Some demonstrators were arrested and others escaped in the crowd. An Argentine youth, Alfredo Prat, aged 22, was found wounded by a bullet and died shortly after.

Rear-Admiral Teisaire announced to-day he had resigned the chairmanship of the superior council of the Peronista party, while remaining vice-president of Argentina. He said he had taken this step in line with General Perón's recent declaration that he (General Perón) had ceased to be head of a revolution to be President of all Argentines. Admiral Teisaire added that it was necessary to separate the party from the Government, and on leaving the party leadership he would continue to serve General Perón's cause.

It is learnt that the remaining five members of the superior council of the Peronista party have also resigned. The resignations are understood to have been precipitated by a division inside the party between representatives of the General Confederation of Labour and nominees of the political or so-called intellectual wing of Peronistas. The confederation wishes to name one of its own men as president of the Chamber of Deputies, and is understood to be opposed to the whole plan of conciliation and pacification. The confederation is the belligerent wing of the Peronista movement.

PRESIDENT PERÓN “DEPOSED”

REPORTS IN BRAZIL

RIO DE JANEIRO, July 20.—Reports reaching here to-night indicate that President Perón of Argentina has been deposed.

The reports suggest that various branches of the armed forces are attempting to reach an agreement to avoid a repetition of the bloodshed in the abortive anti-Perón coup of June 16.

At 10.30 p.m., local time, the Rio telephone operator on the circuit to Buenos Aires reported the line “out of order.”

In Argentina to-day there were strong rumours that the Navy, which had been behind the June 16 revolt attempt, was about to shell Buenos Aires.

The official State Argentine radio to-night unexpectedly took over all radio stations for a speech on what it termed a “rumour offensive,” warning the people against being frightened by rumours and nervousness over the recent events. The broadcast was repeated at 15-minute intervals.—Reuter.

OUTRAGES ON EVA PERÓN MOURNING DAY

MONUMENTS DEFACED FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BUENOS AIRES, JULY 26

Buenos Aires provincial police announced to-day several outrages against the memory of Eva Perón, who died three years ago. In Bolívar a plaque was torn off the base of a monument to Eva Perón, and in Balcarce unknown persons twisted the hands of a clock which indicated the hour of her death. The clock had been erected by workers' contributions.

In San Antonio de Areco two containers of tar were thrown against her monument, and in Chivilcoy a Peronista trade union club was disfigured with tar bombs.

To-day was the official day of mourning throughout Argentina in memory of Eva Perón.

For what is believed to be the first time since General Perón became President of Argentina nearly 10 years ago, the Radical Party is to be allowed to broadcast. The party's propaganda committee announces that Dr. Arturo Frondizi, chairman of the party, is to speak to-morrow night on the "problem of Argentine pacification" and that arrangements had already been made with Radio Belgrano. In the past Radicals were not always refused permission to broadcast, but were never able to book time with any broadcasting company.

MORE OUTRAGES IN ARGENTINA

BOMB NEAR CHURCH

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BUENOS AIRES, JULY 27

Despite General Perón's appeal for conciliation and pacification, outrages by parties on both sides of the conflict are increasing.

A night watchman found a bomb under the staircase leading to the choir of a church adjoining the Roman Catholic school Colegio del Salvador, where Cardinal Copello and the ecclesiastical hierarchy have established temporary headquarters after the burning of the archiepiscopal seat on June 16.

The Peronista Party took a conciliatory step to-day when Dr. Alejandro Leloir, a landowner from Buenos Aires province, was elected chairman of the Peronista supreme council in succession to Rear-Admiral Teisaire, who recently resigned.

It was announced to-day that the Supreme Council of the Argentine Armed Forces had nearly finished investigating responsibility for the abortive Naval and Air Force rising of June 16, and that about 50 officers would be court martialled. The announcement added that most of those implicated had fled the country, and recalled that 107 officers, of whom 82 belonged to the Navy and 25 to the military Air Force, had already been dismissed the service *in absentia*.

BUENOS AIRES, July 27.—In the first broadcast by the Opposition allowed since General Perón took power in 1946, Señor Arturo Frondizi, president of the Radicals' national committee, to-night seized the opportunity to denounce the Perón administration, demanded "a rebirth of democracy," and outlined a 10-point programme which called essentially for political peace. He rejected "peace at the cost of liberty" and declared that the republic could not be led out of its difficulties through political truce pacts drawn up behind the people's backs.—*Associated Press.*

POLICEMAN KILLED IN BUENOS AIRES

SHOT OUTSIDE CHURCH

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BUENOS AIRES, JULY 31

One policeman was shot dead, and another disarmed, by five men who attacked them early yesterday morning outside the Roman Catholic church of Santiago Apostol, in Nuñez, a residential district of the federal capital.

The assailants then escaped in a motor-car, taking with them one sub-machine gun, two pistols, and a quantity of ammunition, with which the policemen, members of the mounted branch of the Argentine federal police on guard at the church, were armed.

Public opinion in Argentina is still gravely perturbed about the disappearance of Dr. Juan Ingalinella, a physician and Communist leader, who is known to have died under torture at Rosario police headquarters about June 17. The police officials responsible, who are in prison, admitted that Dr. Ingalinella died while being "interrogated with violence," and stated that they threw his body into the Parana river. The commission investigating the crime has asked the federal Government to drag the river in the hope of finding the body.

OPPONENTS OF GENERAL PERÓN'S POLICY

CONSERVATIVE ATTACK

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BUENOS AIRES, AUG. 10

General Perón's recent treatment of the Roman Catholic Church in Argentina was compared with the pagan persecutions of early Christians by the Conservative Party leader, Dr. Vicente Solano Lima, in a broadcast last night. Dr. Lima, who recently returned to Argentina after a long exile in Montevideo, was allowed to broadcast as part of General Perón's offer of conciliation. As he recalled, it was the first time the Conservatives had been permitted to use the radio for nearly 10 years.

Argentine Conservatives, who broadly represent the property-owning classes, are the only political party except the newly formed Christian Democrats, who defend the Catholic Church. Nevertheless, the Conservatives when in office did not pursue a clerical policy, and championed the Church far less than the Peronist régime did before General Perón's quarrel with the Church last November.

The tenor of Dr. Lima's address was that the President's conciliation policy of to-day, like that of two years ago, would fail because the Government had not taken the necessary steps to make it a reality. He demanded freedom of the Press, liberation of schools from political coercion, the lifting of the state of internal war, and the settlement of religious conflict. He said the sacking and burning of Catholic churches showed that the country had returned to barbarism. The police had not only allowed these outrages but did not find the culprits and imprisoned and humiliated the Catholic priests who were the victims.

ESCAPE FROM ARGENTINA

OFFICERS' FAMILIES TAKEN BY AIR

From Our Own Correspondent

BUENOS AIRES, AUG. 4

An aircraft belonging to the Argentine Fleet air arm, piloted by Naval Lieutenant Jorge Coletti with Naval Lieutenant Ramon Cordera as co-pilot, escaped last night from its base near Bahia Blanca in the south of Buenos Aires province and landed at Carrasco air force base in Uruguay.

Both officers took with them their wives and children. Lieutenant Coletti had two children and Lieutenant Cordera three children. They asked the Uruguayan Government for political asylum for themselves and their families. All have been interned.

The fact that two Argentine officers took the unusual step of taking their families with them suggests that General Perón's foes in the Argentine armed forces do not expect a change of régime in the near future. To-day's Peronista morning newspapers in Buenos Aires do not mention the incident.

SPEECH TO UNIONS

Meanwhile General Perón is returning to his old habit of addressing individual trade unions. He spoke yesterday to the national congress of delegates of the syndicate of workers and employees of the Ministry of Education.

General Perón said that the syndical organization of the people fought for ideals and interests, because without interests ideals were incomplete and man could not live on illusions. Argentine people remembered the poverty in which they lived before 1943 and would never allow their flag to be lowered. The Government to-day worked for the dispossessed and decapitalized classes, whereas their predecessors had worked for the privileged class.

Opposition leaders are still finding difficulties in obtaining broadcasting facilities, in spite of General Perón's promise to restore all forms of freedom. The Radical Party announced last night that a broadcast by the Radical deputy, Dr. Yadarski, arranged for to-day, had been cancelled by the Government on the ground that the text of the message had not been submitted in time, thereby revealing prior censorship. It is the second Radical broadcast cancelled this week.

REPLY TO RADICALS

Dr. Alejandro Leloir, the new chairman of the Supreme Council of the Peronista Party, broadcast last night a reply to the recent message of the Radical leader, Dr. Frondizi. Dr. Leloir said that the political history of Argentina abounded in violations of the Constitution and laws by all Governments, but the Peronista Government was the first which publicly recognized those "constitutional deviations" and expounded clear reasons of national interest which justified them. Radicalism when in office defrauded the people's hopes, renounced its historic mission, and opposed the aspirations of the mass of the people.

Argentine lawyers yesterday, and doctors the day before, stopped work for 24 hours in protest at the death of the Rosario physician, Dr. Ingallinella, who died while being "violently interrogated" by police. These stoppages were, however, indirectly a demonstration against the Government.

STATUS QUO IN ARGENTINA

NO RIVAL TO GEN. PERÓN

STORM WEATHERED

From Our Own Correspondent

BUENOS AIRES, AUG. 2

Future attempts may be made to overthrow the Argentine régime by the force of arms, but all the indications suggest that this time General Perón has weathered the storm. Opposition hopes that the military leaders who suppressed the revolt of June 16 would also suppress General Perón have been dashed, and both General Lucero and General Embrión have shown that they were General Perón's loyal subordinates.

Ever since Press freedom vanished in Argentina nearly 10 years ago the country has been the prey of political rumours of every kind. Some originate in Argentina and others from foreign, especially Uruguayan, broadcasting stations. The fact remains that the Army stood absolutely by General Perón during the abortive rising, and without land support the rebels lost their bases and had to choose between surrender and flight abroad. Demonstrations of hostility towards the Army by anti-Government crowds who invariably applaud the Navy and the Air Force are an indirect recognition of this truth.

DYNAMIC LEADER

General Perón is not a man who can be eased from office. In spite of his nervous, highly strung temperament he is a dynamic, resourceful, adaptable leader to whom no serious rival has yet appeared. All that has happened since the day of rising and the burning of the churches has tended to strengthen his position. With the passage of time it becomes more difficult to oust him without another and carefully planned revolt. The initiation of a policy of conciliation and pacification was an astute move, because it gives an impression of freedom while the Peronistas continue to affirm that they are the majority party and as such will continue to govern the country.

This policy is too much like what has happened before to carry conviction. In August, 1953, General Perón, while visiting the Argentine city of Santiago del Estero, said that the fight against his enemies was finished. The flags of the Peronista movement were no longer battle colours but pennants of tranquillity, peace, and work. Enemies who offered the hand of friendship would not be defrauded. He was happy to tell all political parties in Argentina that the Government did not desire their disappearance.

DECLARATIONS DOUBTED

This happened nearly two years ago. Today many of his opponents do not trust the President's declarations of good will. Recently Señor Ricardo Azocar, the general secretary of the Christian Democratic Federal Union, sought sanctuary in the Chilean Embassy. The Argentine Foreign Ministry refused the Chilean Ambassador's request for a safe conduct to enable Señor Azocar to go to Chile on the ground that it was not intended to arrest him. Señor Azocar was accompanied by the Ambassador to the airport and reached Chile safely.

The underground Roman Catholic publication in Buenos Aires named *Verdad* ("Truth") still appears clandestinely. The latest issue replied to the President's invitation to conciliation and said that the Government still banned Catholic newspapers, broadcasts, and meetings, even in private. Those who published *Verdad* did so at their risk and peril. *Verdad* said that those who directed the campaign against Argentine Roman Catholicism believed they had won the battle and that the measures already taken were sufficient to end Catholicism in Argentina. All that the Government needed was to wait and gain time while declaring its innocence and asking for order and tranquillity.

PROTEST STRIKE BY DOCTORS

BUENOS AIRES, Aug. 2.—Doctors throughout Argentina went on strike to-day in protest against the death in police hands of a Communist doctor, Juan Ingallinella, after his arrest in Rosario on June 16, the day of the anti-Perón revolt. Only emergency services were attended to in hospitals and private nursing homes. There have been allegations that the doctor was tortured by the police.—*Reuter*.

ARGENTINE TENSION OVER FESTIVAL

CHURCH'S "WHISPERED TREASON"

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BUENOS AIRES, AUG. 14

A fresh crisis is approaching in the conflict between Church and State in Argentina, after the relative relaxation of tension which followed General Perón's message to the Pope of June 29. The feast of the Assumption to-morrow has been declared by the Government an ordinary working day, but the Roman Catholics have announced their intention of celebrating it in their own way.

Pamphlets entitled *Crusade of Freedom* have been secretly circulated urging people not to work to-morrow, if possible; not to visit cinemas, theatres, bars and cafés; not to buy in shops; and not to send their children to school. The pamphlets declare that civil disobedience is the only weapon left to Argentine Catholics, who must paralyse the nation's life for a day.

BLOW FOR BLOW

The Peronista Press angrily calls this a "pamphlet war, or campaign of whispered treason." The newspaper *Democracia*, considered to be the mouthpiece of the Government, to-day accuses the Opposition of being aggressors, and says that the Peronistas must return blow-for blow.

The Ministry of Education has announced that steps will be taken to ensure free access to schools and universities to-morrow, and that non-attendance will be punished. The Ministry states that some pamphlets incite pupils not to attend school, while others are openly intimidating. Parents are warned to beware of the consequences of non-attendance.

There are fears of grave disturbances to-morrow if the Roman Catholics attempt to hold processions after Mass.

The recent formation of the Christian Democratic Party is still evidently causing the Argentine Government anxiety, and the party's organizers are complaining of police persecution. Dr. Manuel Ordoñez, a Catholic and Liberal lawyer, one of the founders of the new party, has successfully applied to the courts for a writ protecting him against being worried by the police.

Radio facilities are again being withheld from the Government's political opponents. The Socialist Party recently failed to obtain permission to broadcast, and the Radical Party has now announced that a broadcast arranged for next Tuesday by the Radical deputy Dr. Yadarola has been cancelled because the text was not approved.

MANY ARRESTS IN ARGENTINA

SCEPTICISM OVER ANTI-PERÓN PLOT

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BUENOS AIRES, AUG. 16

Fifty-five persons have been arrested in connexion with the discovery reported by the Argentine federal police yesterday of a plot to assassinate General Perón. The arrested persons are stated to have declared that they were "Catholic nationalists and linked with military groups." Moreover 40 youths, mostly minors, were detained by the police last night during rioting near the Plaza de Mayo in the centre of Buenos Aires. The Argentine public is usually inclined to receive official statements with scepticism, and the news of the latest plot has not found general credence.

There is certainly enough opposition in Argentina to General Perón to provide an incentive to conspiracy, but the police report is considered to contain weak points. For instance, the police assertion that Roman Catholics and Communists were collaborating, which has been made before, would have been difficult to believe at any time, and can hardly be reconciled with the Argentine Government's contention that Communists burnt the Buenos Aires churches on June 16. It is believed that the Government's motive in linking all its enemies in the same conspiracy is to provide justification for repressing them simultaneously.

Another point that has caused incredulity is the linking of the plot with a reported succession of night attacks on members of the Argentine police. The first attack, nearly three weeks ago, in which one policeman was killed and another disarmed, was believed to be authentic, but reports of more than half-a-dozen similar attacks, with the same technique but without casualties, aroused doubts. The public was inclined to think the police were seeking evidence of conspiracy.

LIKELY CONSEQUENCE

The police to-day published further details, and said that those implicated included the retired naval officer Captain Reynaldo Salvador Testimenti, who had bought arms and delivered them to two priests at the Jesuit College of San Miguel, Father Roberto José Bri and Father José Sanchez Guerra. The conspirators operated in three groups, it was stated, and included a woman, Señorita Sara Mackintosh, who was in charge of the distribution of pamphlets.

The most important consequence of the announcement of the plot will probably be the ending of the political truce or of the policy of conciliation and pacification. The Peronistas have already claimed that they are the only political party which respected the truce.

The conflict between Church and State remains Argentina's biggest political problem, and it is difficult to see any basis on which it can be settled. There is no inclination to compromise on either side. Everything indicates that the Roman Catholics would be satisfied with nothing less than the repeal of the measures taken against the Church, which the Government can scarcely contemplate.

Rear-Admiral Samuel Toranzo Calderón, who was recently sentenced to life imprisonment for his part in the abortive naval and air force rising on June 16, was "publicly degraded" here to-day. His epaulettes were torn off in a ceremony at the naval school of engineering.

PUBLIC UNAWARE

The news was not announced officially, and the public was unaware that it was happening. Nevertheless precautions were taken against demonstrations and disturbances, and guards were doubled. The ceremony of degradation was performed on the barrack square at the school in the presence of troops.

Students' disturbances occurred to-day at La Plata, now called Eva Perón, the capital of Buenos Aires province, and 41 persons were arrested. Crowds of students shouted for liberty, and police threw tear-gas bombs. Similar demonstrations occurred yesterday in Córdoba and Santa Fé. In Córdoba young people of both sexes, after Mass, shouted "Long live Christ the King!" and "Liberty!" Mounted police charged repeatedly, and many arrests were made. A police report said that students stoned the police.

This evening the semi-official Buenos Aires Press announces unofficially the sentences imposed on the Argentine naval and air force officers implicated in the rising of June 16. These differ slightly from earlier unofficial versions and are as follows: Rear Admiral Toranzo Calderón, degradation and life imprisonment; Rear Admiral Aníbal Olivieri, dismissal and 18 months' imprisonment; eight naval and three air force officers, dismissal and life confinement; six minor prison sentences, and various sentences of eight days' to six months' arrest.

CLERGY ACCUSED IN ARGENTINA

MINISTER'S WARNING

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BUENOS AIRES, AUG. 18

A continuance of the war between Church and State in Argentina is foreshadowed by declarations of the Minister of the Interior and Justice, Dr. Oscar Albrieu, at a Press conference last night.

The Minister accused the Roman Catholic clergy of inciting the people to violence, and named seven Buenos Aires churches where, he said, priests had preached seditious sermons, especially on the past two Sundays. Moreover, arms and explosives, he said, had been found in Catholic schools. Not only in Buenos Aires but also in provincial cities sermons had been preached inciting the people to civil disobedience. He called it "a pseudo campaign in defence of religion," and warned the clergy that they were liable to prosecution under the penal code for "instigation to commit crime."

"COWARDLY CAMPAIGN"

The Minister then attacked the Argentine upper class and said that tolerance had a limit and it was not possible to allow 200 or 300 families in Buenos Aires to engage in turmoil and rebellion, disturbing 19 million Argentines who wished to live in peace and safety. The Government would act with severity. Dr. Albrieu said the political truce had been respected by the Peronistas but their opponents had engaged in a cowardly campaign of rumours and pamphlets full of insults, calumnies, and infamy.

After the conference the Minister invited questions. A journalist cast doubts on the truth of official reports, especially those concerning attacks on police, and pointed out inconsistencies. He bluntly asked the Minister whether the shooting incident reported to have occurred yesterday morning in Belgrano, a residential district of Buenos Aires, "really happened," to which the Minister laconically answered, "Yes."

The Conservative Party has protested against the conduct of the police last night in allowing a group of armed civilians to assault law-abiding citizens who attended the laying of a wreath on the monument of the Argentine liberator, General San Martin.

Sentences on naval and air force rebels who took part in the abortive rising on June 16, already published unofficially, were officially announced yesterday. Those sentenced are stated to have been sent to the prison of Santa Rosa in southern Argentina.

BURNT CHURCHES OF BUENOS AIRES

DENIALS OF CARDINAL'S ALLEGATIONS.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BUENOS AIRES, AUG. 28

Seldom has a statement made about Argentina abroad by a non-member of a Government had such repercussions here as recent declarations of Cardinal Spellman and another American Roman Catholic prelate, Mgr. Schultheiss, in New York about the burning of Buenos Aires churches on June 16.

It is usual in Argentina for the Government to ignore such declarations and to prohibit their reproduction in Argentine newspapers. Now, however, the Government has replied in the form of articles in the Peronista Press. Cardinal Spellman's appeal to public opinion in the United States is especially embarrassing at a moment when official relations between the two countries are exceptionally friendly and Argentina is seeking United States technical aid, especially in petroleum exploitation. Moreover, the Argentine Government has tacitly abandoned the pretence that the churches were burnt by Communists, and is at loss to offer an alternative explanation.

SLAUGHTER OF INNOCENTS

A message from New York belatedly published here states that the two prelates attributed the burnings to Peronistas and not Communists, and that Mgr. Schultheiss said that the petrol used in the burnings had been carried in motor vans of the Eva Perón Foundation and the Ministry of Education. The Peronista newspapers published this message, together with indignant leading articles repudiating the accusation, care being taken, however, not to offend the American Government and people.

The Eva Perón Foundation went further and published in the advertisement columns of all the important Buenos Aires newspapers, including the independent *La Nación*, a statement denying the prelates' accusation. The foundation said that the fuel consumed by its vehicles on June 16 was in the service of Christianity and social justice, to help the "victims of the treacherous crime for which the prelates had not a single word of condemnation." It added that those who sought to associate the foundation with barbarous acts had forgotten their Christian duty "not to bear false witness or to lie."

Neither the foundation's statement nor the Peronista articles mention the Communists, but the prelates are attacked for not condemning the naval and air force rising rather than for accusing the Peronistas of burning the churches. Last night's Peronista *La Época* said that the "massacre and fires were terrible, inseparable events," and that the slaughter of innocent people was a million times more terrible than the fires.

COMPULSORY COLLECTION

This seems to be an admission that the fires were a reprisal for the rising, which is what most educated Argentines believe. The Roman Catholic underground newspaper *Verdad* ("Truth") said that some of the incendiaries of June 16 were seen leaving in a motor car of the Eva Perón foundation and others in a motor car of the General Confederation of Labour, and that a petrol tank vehicle of the Argentine state oilfields was seen near one of the burnt churches.

The accusation against the Eva Perón Foundation has a special interest. The first rift between General Perón and the Roman Catholic Church occurred long before the final breach in November—in fact several years ago when the foundation assumed responsibility for the distribution of charitable funds previously in the hands of the Church. The Argentine ecclesiastical authorities strongly disapproved of the foundation's action on the ground that monetary gifts to the poor should be accompanied by spiritual aid and not used for political party propaganda. Since then there has been a feud between the foundation and the Church.

The foundation is a huge beneficent institution with ample funds at its disposal. It compulsorily collects two days' pay yearly from every salary and wage-earner in Argentina by order of the General Confederation of Labour.

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GEN. PERÓN IN COMMAND

OFFER TO RESIGN WITHDRAWN

WORKERS' SUPPORT

From Our Own Correspondent

BUENOS AIRES, AUG. 31

General Perón to-day offered his resignation as President of Argentina to the General Confederation of Labour. The confederation refused the resignation and immediately called a general stoppage of work throughout the country. Señor de Pietro, general secretary of the confederation, said the workers' motto was "Perón must stay.

The news was conveyed to the Argentine people this morning by the State radio, which called on the workers of greater Buenos Aires to assemble in the Plaza de Mayo to demand that the President withdraw his resignation. The confederation said: "The people must remain in permanent civic meeting until the leader of the workers' class agrees to continue as President."

This evening Señor de Pietro addressed the crowd in the Plaza de Mayo—estimated at some 30,000—and said they would all stay there until General Perón withdrew his resignation. Outside the Ministry of the Army, a few hundred yards away, anti-aircraft guns were ready for action.

GREAT CHEERING

After some delay General Perón appeared. In one of the most aggressive speeches he has ever made he told the crowd he had decided to withdraw his resignation at the people's request. The announcement was received with great cheering, followed by the sounding of the siren of the newspaper *La Prensa*, which is used only for sensational news.

In his speech the President said that if their enemies showed violence the Peronistas would reply with more violence. For every Peronista killed they would take the lives of five enemies. The Peronistas must be ready to man the trenches. General Perón asked the people to guard him against assassination, and he ended by asking them to be calm.

Although the General Confederation of Labour assumed the honour of receiving and rejecting General Perón's resignation it was sent to all three branches of the Peronista movement—the men's branch, the women's branch, and the confederation. Of the three, the confederation is numerically much the strongest.

It is stated that General Perón was in his office at 6.20 a.m. to-day, where he informed the Cabinet of his decision to resign. The session lasted an hour, after which he received leaders of the Peronista Party and the General Confederation of Labour. All members of the Argentine Senate and the Peronista majority in the Chamber of Deputies announced to-day that they would resign unless General Perón withdrew his resignation.

The stoppage of work is reported complete throughout Argentina, except in transport. In provincial towns and villages people assembled in the plazas.

SIGNIFICANCE OF ACT

The general impression to-day was that the offer was an act of a man who intended to stay, and not of a man disheartened and tired of office. Some Peronistas, however, feared that the Opposition might take the chance when Argentina theoretically is without a President to start an armed rising. It is significant that General Perón handed his resignation to the General Confederation of Labour and not to Congress, which is the only body constitutionally authorized to accept or reject such an offer.

The purpose of the resignation is believed to be to stage a monster demonstration of the President's popularity among the workers, even greater than that of October 17, 1945—since called "loyalty day."

Evidence that to-day's event was carefully prepared is supported by the fact that the newspaper *La Prensa*, now owned by the General Confederation of Labour, issued a special edition at 10 a.m. Moreover, the Argentine Government Press department early to-day was able to supply mimeograph copies of the text of the General Confederation of Labour message to the workers, the general's letter to the head of the Peronista Party executive, Dr. Alejandro Leloir, and other documents.

AGE AND WEARINESS

In this letter General Perón said he had heard that the Peronista Party's political enemies would not cease from hostility unless he left the Government. He had always been willing to listen to others, and believed he was in his post by the will of the immense majority of the Argentine people. Therefore dignity and honour compelled him to offer to withdraw from the scene. He believed his retirement would strengthen the Peronista movement and enable it to fight better against "the enemies of the people."

General Perón went on to say that his age and weariness were beginning to weigh too heavily, and he was tired of ingratitude and disillusionment. Recent events were too much for him.

ARGENTINE FEAR OF MORE REPRESSION

PRESIDENT'S RULE CONSOLIDATED

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BUENOS AIRES, SEPT. 1

Seven Peronista workers were killed and 48 injured yesterday in Tucuman, in the north-west of Argentina, while on their way to a General Confederation of Labour meeting to demand the withdrawal of General Perón's resignation of the Argentine presidency. The victims were travelling on the roof of a train which was full inside, and struck the overhead electric cable.

The General Confederation of Labour last night called off the stoppage of work after General Perón had announced his decision to withdraw his resignation, and normal business throughout Argentina was resumed to-day. Yesterday's demonstration is considered to have strengthened General Perón's position and shown that in spite of rumours he is the effective ruler of Argentina. The angry threatening tone of his speech last night which contrasted with his almost pathetic letter of resignation has disturbed many who fear intensification of repression. Most Argentines feel that this marks the end of the conciliation policy. People were especially struck by the President's denunciation of his political opponents as criminals who had not wanted to be placated. He said any Argentine was authorized to kill those engaging in disturbances against the lawfully constituted authorities. He ended by saying that as the opposition had refused peace he would now offer them fight, and that when Peronistas fought they fought to the finish.

The Peronistas to-night secured the passage through the Chamber of Deputies of a Bill establishing a state of siege in the capital, by 109 votes to 12. The Radicals opposed the Bill, which now goes to the Senate, where its passage is assured. For nearly four years Argentina has lived under a legal "state of internal war." A state of siege, *inter alia*, prohibits meetings of more than two persons, and would prevent anti-Government demonstrations.

'WORKERS' ARMS IN ARGENTINA

GENERAL PERÓN'S PLAN REVIVED

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BUENOS AIRES, SEPT. 8

A proposal to arm Argentine "workers" to defend their "social conquests" was unanimously approved by the General Confederation of Labour last night. Late editions of last night's evening newspapers declared that a workers' militia would be formed. Today's semi-official morning newspapers omit this interpretation and state merely that the confederation has offered to place voluntary reserves of workers at the army's disposal.

The idea of arming "workers" was hinted at by General Perón several years ago, but no action was then taken. During the Argentine naval and air force rising of June 16 many civilians took part in the fighting in an unorganized way with weapons seized from gunsmiths' shops, and many of them were killed.

UNIONS' SUGGESTION

Señor De Pietro, the confederation's general secretary, said last night that an offer to the army of voluntary reserves of workers was made at the suggestion of several trade unions "to prevent any future attempt to put workers back to the ignominious period before there was social justice in Argentina." The purpose of the present proposal was to defend the law, the constitution, and legitimately constituted authorities.

Señor De Pietro said that Argentine working people were firmly resolved to prevent the destruction of their happiness and would follow General Perón through all vicissitudes, giving if necessary their lives for their leader. The army and the people were united like brothers. The organization of voluntary reserves of workers would provide an adequate defence of workers' social conquests and ideals. On June 16 defenceless people had been the victims of brutal aggression.

General Perón yesterday addressed delegates of tramway workers, and other trade unions, and again denounced people spreading false rumours. In spite of a recent police edict threatening penalties for rumour-mongers, rumours have increased. One of the most persistent rumours recently—which has not been substantiated—was the alleged military rising in an Argentine province. It is believed to have been based on certain changes in members of the higher command in Cordoba, made to eliminate from posts of major responsibility officers who allegiance to General Perón is doubtful.

REPRESSION THREAT

General Perón said the fight against his enemies threatened to become bloodier. He had shown extraordinary patience and had waited 60 days for the Opposition to respond to an offer of conciliation, but in vain. The Opposition had closed all doors to political understanding. If his opponents insisted on creating disorder, the Government would reply with repression in every field.

He then attacked the economic policy of giving preference to trade with Britain (followed by the Argentine Conservative Government 20 years ago) and especially the Runciman-Roca agreement which, he said, was negotiated between dusk and midnight without consulting the people. He declared that this treaty deprived the Argentines of their food for many years. He knew it because he was then "secretary to the War Minister, General Manuel Rodríguez, who was furious about it."

The President's reason for introducing Britain into the speech about Argentine internal conflicts was that his opponents had recently attacked the Government's contracts with an American oil company to exploit petroleum in Patagonia.

ARMY UNREST IN ARGENTINA

ARREST OF GENERAL REPORTED

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BUENOS AIRES, SEPT. 9

General Franklin Lucero, Argentine Minister of the Army, is unofficially reported to have informed Argentine "war correspondents" that Brigadier-General Dalmiro F. Videla Balaguer, of the garrison of Rio Cuarto in Cordoba province, is under arrest for rebellion at the headquarters of the third motorized regiment here. Four other senior officers of the same garrison are said to be detained in garrisons near the federal capital.

All five officers were named in the military order of surrender published in the Peronista evening newspaper *La Epoca* yesterday. Besides Videla Balaguer, the other four are Colonel Juan Bautista Picca, Lieutenant-Colonel Raul A. P. Picasso, Lieutenant-Colonel Carlos Carabba, and Major Jorge Fernandez Funez, all of whom were ordered to report within three days on pain of being declared rebels. The order was signed by Divisional General José M. Sosa Molina, brother of General Humberto Sosa Molina, Secretary of State for National Defence. All authorities were ordered to help capture the five wanted officers.

ADDED SIGNIFICANCE

Revelation of serious unrest in the Army has an added significance coming at a time when disaffection is known to exist in the Navy and Air Force. The announcement of the General Confederation of Labour of its decision to arm the workers is understood to have been received badly by Army leaders.

General Lucero to-day acknowledged the General Confederation of Labour's offer to supply reserves of volunteers to help the Army to maintain internal peace. He said that the workers' noble attitude was another gesture of identifying the people with the armed forces, and was a great contribution towards the realization of the ideal so often expressed by General Perón for the country's unity, greatness, and happiness. General Lucero was convinced that the offer would receive due consideration by the Government.

BRAZILIAN OFFICERS ARRESTED

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept. 9.—Police said to-day that several Brazilian Army officers have been arrested on charges of stealing large quantities of arms to use in a *coup d'Etat*. One officer was said to have confessed that he stole 20 sub-machine guns, 82 carbines, 26 revolvers, and a rocket-launcher. The police said they also arrested several civilians who worked at the arsenal from which the arms were taken. Some weapons were found hidden in flats in the Copacabana district of Rio de Janeiro.—*Reuter*.

REVOLT IN FOUR ARGENTINE PROVINCES

NAVAL BASES SEIZED BY REBELS

Risings occurred yesterday in four of the provinces of Argentina. The Government claimed during the day to have the situation under control and stated that loyal forces were suppressing the revolt, but the rebels were reported to have seized naval bases at Rio Santiago and Puerto Belgrano, and to have been joined by sympathizers at the artillery school in Cordoba.

A state of siege has been declared for the whole country, and extraordinary precautions have been taken in Buenos Aires.

SITUATION UNDER CONTROL

GOVERNMENT CLAIM

From Our Own Correspondent

BUENOS AIRES, Sept. 16.

The Argentine State radio announced to-day that military and naval risings occurred early this morning in the provinces of Cordoba, Corrientes, and Entre Rios, and were being rapidly suppressed. The announcement added that 300 rebels had surrendered in Entre Rios. The chief centres of the insurrection were stated to be Cordoba city and Curuzú-Cuatiá, in Corrientes. The Government was in control of the situation, and the loyal forces were dominating the rebels.

Later information, however, makes it apparent that the rebellion extends to four provinces, including the most important, Buenos Aires. The situation thus seems to be more serious than the Government admitted earlier in the day.

The Argentine State radio announced that a curfew would be imposed and anyone out of doors after 6.30 p.m. was liable to be shot. The curfew becomes effective immediately. The radio added that the command of the forces of repression of the insurrection, which was created after the rebellion of June 16, had been re-established.

REBEL BASES

The State radio said loyal troops were marching against the rebel base at Curuzú-Cuatiá, and admitted that the naval bases of Rio Santiago and Puerto Belgrano, both in Buenos Aires province, had declared in favour of the insurgents. The Ministry of the Army announced that the artillery school in Cordoba had joined the rebellion, and that Government troops were attacking the rebel bases at Rio Santiago and Puerto Belgrano. According to private telephone advice from the city of Bahia Blanca, in the south of Buenos Aires province, the anti-Government forces from Puerto Belgrano have occupied the town.

The radio announced this afternoon that loyal forces were converging on Cordoba to suppress the rising, but troops are said to have been seen entraining to-day at the Buenos Aires railway terminus, bound for Cordoba, which suggests that the rebellion there is by no means over. Large-scale military manoeuvres were held this week in the hills of Cordoba, but it is not known whether the rebellion extends to the troops taking part.

A decree has been issued extending the state of siege, hitherto in force only in the Federal capital, to cover all Argentina. Both Chambers of Congress met to-day to approve the decree.

LEAFLETS DROPPED

Some accounts say that fighting occurred to-day in Cordoba, near the school of aviation. One version says buildings of a Government concern connected with aeronautical and mechanical industries were bombed.

According to yet another version, a revolutionary Government has been formed in Cordoba province. Rebel aircraft are said to have dropped leaflets during the day over Cordoba city, declaring that rebellion had broken out throughout Argentina, and threatening to bomb Government House, Cordoba, unless the occupants surrendered within two hours.

Residents of Buenos Aires were awakened early to-day by the sound of tanks rumbling into the city: one person counted 20 tanks. Many public buildings, including the central post office, are protected by machine-guns. All railway viaducts at the approaches to the city are guarded by troops, said to number nearly 2,000. The road from Buenos Aires to La Plata, now called Eva Perón, is reported closed to vehicular traffic.

A message from Eva Perón city, situated a few miles from the Argentine rebel base of Rio Santiago, stated that Government heavy bomber aircraft had bombed the base this afternoon. A squadron of bombers passed over Eva Perón in the direction of Rio Santiago. Residents of Eva Perón heard loud explosions and saw great columns of smoke. It is stated that the explosions caused panic in Eva Perón. Civilian refugees from Rio Santiago arrived at Eva Perón carrying packages and said that there had been hand-to-hand fighting in Rio Santiago. Later three more bomber aircraft passed over Eva Perón and two are said to have been shot down.

The Argentine Ministry of the Army said that Government troops greatly outnumbered the rebels. Other versions say that a rebel force of 12,000 men is defending Cordoba against loyalists under General Morelio, who are 13 miles away. Fifty omnibuses carrying troops are reported to have left Buenos Aires bound for Cordoba this afternoon.

It is unofficially reported that about 100 civilians were arrested in Buenos Aires during the night. The inhabitants of the

capital this morning found troops and armed civilians guarding vital points in the centre of the city. Anti-aircraft artillery was stationed ready for action in the Plaza de Mayo. Detachments of gendarmes, armed with rifles and sub-machine guns, prevented the public from going near their headquarters.

BANKS CLOSED

Among the extraordinary precautions taken in the Federal capital against air attack was the painting of a large red cross on the roof of the Assistance Publica (fire and ambulance department). The main premises of the Federal police were taken over by the gendarmerie, the semi-military constabulary organized primarily for frontier defence. The staff of Government House were also evacuated, and their place taken by soldiers of a mounted regiment of Grenadiers. Banks and Government offices were closed to the public, although sea, rail, and air traffic was normal.

Members of the civilian organization known as Alianza Libertadores Nacionales appeared in the doorway and windows of their premises dressed in brown shirts and black ties and armed with sub-machine guns.

General Perón's address to delegates of the General Confederation of Labour, arranged for 10 a.m. to-day, which was to have been broadcast by all Argentine radio stations,



apparently was not made; listeners heard only Argentine folk music in place of the broadcast.

Two Buenos Aires broadcasting stations, Radio Belgrano and Radio del Pueblo, were off the air early in the day when cables were cut by unknown persons. Later the cables were repaired.

POLICEMAN KILLED

A policeman was shot dead before dawn in Belgrano, a residential district of the Federal capital.

Montevideo radio announced this evening that the Argentine cruiser Cervantes had entered Montevideo harbour and was landing wounded. It would seem that she entered the harbour for humanitarian reasons and not to seek sanctuary.

The Argentine rebel radio in Puerto Belgrano claimed that rebel forces included part of the garrisons in the provinces of Cordoba, Corrientes, and Entre Ríos. It added that the naval forces in revolt against General Perón comprised the naval bases of Puerto Belgrano and Rio Santiago. A second rebel radio reported to be operating in Cordoba, and a telephone message from Cordoba states that the police headquarters there surrendered to rebel forces after an artillery bombardment lasting 35 minutes.

By a strange coincidence, to-day's rebellion in the provinces occurred exactly three months after the rising in Buenos Aires, on June 16. The State radio announced that the leader of the provincial rebellion was General Dalmiro Videl Balaguer, who was reported to have been arrested last week after surreptitious movement in Rio Cuarto, Cordoba province.

Buenos Aires, Sept. 16.—An official communiqué broadcast by Buenos Aires radio to-night said it had been learnt that the Minister of the Army, General Franklin Lucero, had been appointed commander-in-chief of the suppression forces and would take all steps he thought necessary "to suppress as speedily as possible all disturbances of public order." The communiqué, repeatedly broadcast, said that a state of siege had been declared throughout Argentina.—Keeler.

REPORTED ULTIMATUM TO PRESIDENT

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK, Sept. 16.

Soon after the Argentine Government had announced this morning that the armed rebellion in three centres in the interior had been rapidly crushed, there was a report in Buenos Aires—from undisclosed sources—that Army officials had called upon President Perón to resign. The report said further that General Perón went to the Ministry of the Army at 1 a.m. and that the Federal police headquarters, near the Congress building, had been evacuated. It was suggested that this might be because an attack was feared.

Rebel forces were reported this afternoon to have seized control of the city's big wheat port, Bahia Blanca, near the Puerto Belgrano naval base.

REBEL THREAT TO BOMBARD BUENOS AIRES

COMMUNICATIONS WITH CAPITAL INTERRUPTED INDEFINITELY

Rebel forces in Argentina have threatened to bombard Buenos Aires unless President Perón resigns, and yesterday morning it was announced that all communications, other than official Government calls, with the capital had been interrupted indefinitely.

Both sides claim successes, but the Argentine authorities have placed a censorship on foreign correspondents.

The Government, which had announced that resistance at Córdoba, the provisional capital of the rebels, had ceased, then withdrew its claim, but later said the capital "had returned to the fold of legality."

REPORTED FALL OF MENDOZA

GARRISON JOINS INSURGENTS

From Our Own Correspondent

NEW YORK, Sept. 18

At 10 o'clock this morning (Eastern Standard Time) an overseas telephone operator here announced that all communications with Buenos Aires had been interrupted indefinitely, and that only official Government calls were now being accepted.

This was the hour fixed by the rebels in Argentina for President Perón to resign. They had threatened to bombard Buenos Aires if he failed to comply with their demand.

Earlier to-day rebel forces telephoned Buenos Aires from Mendoza, a provincial capital in western Argentina about 650 miles west of Buenos Aires, that under the command of General Roberto Nuñez they had seized control of that city. They said that the city's garrison had joined them, and apparently the Peronista Governor, Carlos Evans, had fled.

Yesterday Buenos Aires was blacked out because of the threat by rebel naval forces to bombard the city. It was said then that nine small ships and a submarine of the Argentine river fleet were waiting near Montevideo in Uruguay to be joined by the more heavily gunned Atlantic fleet for the bombardment.

CONFUSION IN CORDOBA

Meanwhile, the Government announced that resistance at Córdoba, the provisional capital of the rebels, had ceased, and that the rebel commander, General Dalmiro Félix Videla Balaguer, had escaped. However, soon afterwards, the rebel radio in Córdoba was heard broadcasting. From other parts of Argentina it was reported that the Second Army Group at San Luis had joined the rebellion and had accepted General Eugenio J. Arandia as its commander in place of General José María Espíñola Sosa Molina.

It was indicated in a telegram to New York from Buenos Aires this afternoon that newspaper correspondents, who are telegraphing their dispatches because they have been deprived of telephone facilities, were being permitted to send out only Government official statements. This was taken to indicate that no further information about the rebels could be expected from the capital.

Sáfor di Pieri, the secretary-general of the powerful Confederation of Labour, broadcast an appeal to workers to rise in arms to defend the Perón régime.



The Government withdrew its earlier claim that it had recaptured Córdoba; it said that mopping-up operations there might take all day and perhaps last into to-morrow and it asserted that the rebellion was receiving "great foreign aid."

In Washington the State Department reported that in a telephone message from the Buenos Aires Embassy this morning it had received an unconfirmed report that General Perón was "meeting with his generals" and had called on the Congress to convene some time this afternoon.

Buenos Aires, Sept. 18.—The latest rebel reports that the insurgent fleet was nearing the capital, and that six provinces were in rebel hands, along with Atlantic coast naval

bases in the south and the city of Bahía Blanca in Buenos Aires province.

Anti-aircraft guns opened fire early to-day in Buenos Aires, which faces a threat of bombardment unless it yields to an ultimatum from the Army and Navy rebels. A government broadcast said that the anti-aircraft fire was directed against a Peronista aircraft which strayed over a prohibited area.

The rebels' ultimatum to President Perón to surrender was due to expire at 6 a.m. to-day (1000 B.S.T.), according to first rebel broadcasts, but a later report gave the expiry time as noon.

Revolutionary radio stations were still proclaiming the triumph of their movement as Sáfor di Pieri said in a one-minute broadcast that the position was favourable for the Government. He said that the pro-Government forces were of superior strength and had the rebels completely surrounded. Workers should collaborate with the Government, laying down their lives if necessary to defend their rights.

"IDLE PROPAGANDA"

The "repression command" pressed its claim that Córdoba, third city of the republic, had been recaptured from the rebels, although its communiqué said that



General Balaguer.

mopping-up operations might take two days. The communiqué added that this left the rebels only the naval base of Puerto Belgrano, near Bahía Blanca, and it would fall soon before the pressure of superior forces. The rebel threat to bomb Buenos Aires was idle propaganda as they had no aircraft, the communiqué said. The pro-Perón forces had 50 jet fighters and 30 bombers near the capital, as well as adequate anti-aircraft artillery, it added.

LOYALISTS "VICTORIOUS"

A Buenos Aires broadcast referring to the "capture of Córdoba," said: "Loyalist troops were already in possession of the central part of the city yesterday. They suspended operations for the night in order to spare the population. Mopping-up was started again this early morning and by 5.30 the loyal troops were victorious."

Another radio bulletin said the advance of loyal troops on Puerto Belgrano continued, and that order was returning to the whole country.

"The sufferings of the people of Córdoba have ended," the radio said. "Córdoba has returned to the fold of legality." The two remaining resistance centres had been totally surrounded and asked to surrender under threat of being completely destroyed, it added.

The Buenos Aires Government radio no-night warned citizens that rebel forces in Bahía Blanca had cut the pipeline bringing natural gas to the capital from Comodoro Rivadavia, in southern Argentina. The radio said there would be a shortage of gas in the city and urged the people to use gas sparingly.—Reuters.

SANTIAGO, CHILE, Sept. 18.—The Argentine rebel radio in Mendoza province claimed to-night that formations of Lincoln bombers had gone over to the revolutionary forces.—Reuters.

DESTROYERS AT MONTEVIDEO

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

MONTEVIDEO, Sept. 18

On Friday night two Argentine destroyers reached Montevideo. The Cervantes came alongside and landed three dead and 18 wounded, and La Rioja remained outside the port, trans-shipping to a Uruguayan tug two dead and 14 wounded. She then steamed towards the Argentine coast. Both destroyers had been attacked by Argentine Army aircraft while patrolling the channel to Buenos Aires to prevent ships leaving. The Uruguayan Government interned the Cervantes crew.

Uruguayan watchers reported this morning that the Argentine fleet was steaming upriver towards Buenos Aires.

Pictures on page 24.

ARGENTINA UNDER RULE OF MILITARY JUNTA

PRESIDENT PERÓN'S RESIGNATION REPORTED

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A late dispatch from our Buenos Aires Correspondent stated that the Argentine rebel navy had given the Government until midnight to comply with its terms, failing which hostilities would be prosecuted with all vigour by land, sea, and air.

An Associated Press report from Buenos Aires stated that the junta informed the rebel command last night that President Perón had "officially resigned," and that they were ready to open talks with them.

PARLEY WITH REBELS

AVOIDING "FURTHER BLOODSHED"

From Our Own Correspondent

BUENOS AIRES, Sept. 19. After a night during which the city was blacked out for fear of imminent naval and air bombardment, the inhabitants of Buenos Aires learnt to-day that the Argentine Government had asked the rebel commanders to discuss terms of peace.

General Franklin Lucero broadcast a message saying that he had resigned both as Minister of the Army and commander of the forces of repression. General Perón's whereabouts is cloaked in mystery, and Argentina is said to be governed by a military junta or committee. The junta is understood to have ordered the Government's armed forces to abstain from offensive action but to maintain their positions, and to have requested the rebels to do likewise, pending negotiations for the suspension of hostilities.

THE FIRST TASK

The members of the military junta are stated to be General Carlos Wirth, General Emilio Forcher, and General Angel Juan Masi. The junta's first task is to open discussions with the rebel leaders for a cessation of hostilities. The rebels have insisted, however, that before peace talks, President Perón and his Government must resign.

Meanwhile, the country is still under a state of siege and a curfew is in force from 8 p.m. until 6 a.m. Law-abiding persons out of doors in Buenos Aires after the curfew have not so far been molested or even questioned, but restaurants, bars, cafés, cinemas and other places of amusement must close before the curfew.

General Lucero earlier broadcast a message, in the name of President Perón, inviting the rebels' leaders to meet him at the Ministry of the Army in Buenos Aires. The message said that it is the face of the ultimatum threatening to bombard Buenos Aires and the petroleum refinery at La Plata (Eva Perón), the capital of Buenos Aires province, and to avoid further bloodshed, he proposed to discuss a solution of the conflict and the immediate cessation of hostilities.

GUNS REMOVED

Almost simultaneously, anti-aircraft guns which had been ready for action in Plaza de Mayo, in front of Government House, for the past three days were hauled to motor lorries and driven away.

General Robles, director of public safety, repeatedly broadcast a message to the people of Buenos Aires to keep calm. Torrential rain, which had fallen since midnight, helped to keep people off the streets.

Sector de Pueblo, general secretary of the General Confederation of Labour, broadcast a message to the workers today, urging them to stay at work, to obey the instructions of their union leaders, and to avoid provocative acts.

Several Army tanks were stationed to-night in the centre of Buenos Aires near the government house and the Alvear, Alvear, Libertadores Nacionalistas. Minor demonstrations took place in the streets to-night, in spite of the state of siege.

It is stated that the rebel commanders refused to make a pact with General Perón, and demanded unconditional surrender and the President's resignation. They offered to provide vessels to enable Government delegates to go on board a rebel warship. General Lucero was later said to have boarded a launch to take him to the rebel cruiser *Nuestra Señora de Julio*.

News from the Argentine to-day indicated that the rebel cause had triumphed in the provinces of Córdoba, Mendoza, San Juan, and San Luis. Banks were open to-day in Mendoza under the rebel authority, whereas in Buenos Aires the banks have been shut since Thursday. The revolutionary Government in Córdoba is stated to have released all political prisoners.

PORT SHELLIED

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In spite of the heavy rain, a crowd of Peronista workers demonstrated near the

Plaza de Mayo this afternoon, carrying the Argentine flag and shouting: "Perón! Perón!"

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The proclamation by the junta calling for a cease-fire was read over the State radio. It was addressed to both the loyal and rebel commands. It said: "The loyal commands should suspend the fighting, holding their troops in the places they have reached. The



commands of the opposition are invited to take equal measures to prevent further bloodshed while talks for pacification and a definite cease-fire go on." The junta said the peace talks should begin in Buenos Aires "as soon as possible."

The junta also announced that it had given General Robles, director of public security, full powers to maintain the security of the civilian population.

Shows were held to-night in front of the studios of the Argentine State radio. Initial reports said there were 100,000 spectators. It was reported that the shooting began when an anti-Perón group tried to enter the building, which was defended by Federal police, soldiers, and gendarmes.—Associated Press.

PRESIDENT'S 'REFUGE IN PARAGUAY'

UNCONFIRMED RUMOURS

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT
NEW YORK, Sept. 19

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While these reports could not be confirmed immediately, it was established that, in a signed statement read over the Argentine State radio by General Franklin Lucero, the Army Minister, President Perón to-day offered to resign the Presidency, but said he would leave the decision in the hands of the Argentine Army.

President Perón's resignation offer, as read by General Lucero over the radio, ran:—

"To the Army and the people of the nation. We have reached present events guided only by the fulfillment of our duty. We have tried by every means to respect the law and to have them respected. We have done this for the interest of the people and their benefit. Nevertheless, neither the constitution nor the law can be above the very nation itself and its sacred interests. If we have had to face a fight it has been contrary to our desire, and obtained by force of reaction which prepared and enabled us. The responsibility falls exclusively upon them because we have only complied with the mandate of our tremendous duty."

"I offered to leave the Government recently, if it offered a solution to the situation. But the circumstances did not allow me to. Dispassionate discussion of a solution was imperative. President Perón said: "The Army can take over the Government and the restoration of order before it is too late. I think that is the best way."

"I do not want to die without making a last effort for peace and the tranquillity and happiness of the people." The President said he did not think there was any one man who could take over the situation at present, but there was an institution that could do so.

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